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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, *November 15, 2012.*

I hereby appoint the Honorable BLAKE FARENTHOLD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 6118. An act to amend section 353 of the Public Health Service Act with respect to suspension, revocation, and limitation of laboratory certification.

H.R. 6131. An act to extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, a group of Members from both parties are going to meet together to discuss the possible legislative options to start a process of bringing our troops home from Afghanistan in 2013.

Yesterday I was on the floor speaking about Army Specialist Joshua Nelson, from my home county, who was killed by the very Afghans he was sent to train. Specialist Nelson is just one of 60 U.S. servicemembers who have been killed this year by the Afghans that they were sent to train.

I don't know where the outrage is by the United States Congress. I am very disappointed in both parties and their leadership to allow our young men and women to stay in a war that has no end to it. This makes no sense to the American people. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the American people have said time after time, in poll after poll, that they want to bring our troops home now—not in 2014, but now.

On October 7, there was a national article written, and the title was, ''A Mother Mourns a Grim Milestone,'' referring to the 2,000th American casualty from the Afghan war. Lisa Freeman, who was interviewed in the article, lost her son Captain Matthew Freeman in 2009. He was shot by a sniper in Afghanistan. Ms. Freeman said:

> I just sat here, reliving the pain and wondering: Where is America's outrage? Where is America's concern that we're still at war.

And, Mr. Speaker, I made reference to this yesterday. The October 14 New York Times editorial, ''Time to Pack Up,'' with the subtitle, ''It should not take 2 more years for the United States to leave Afghanistan.''

''It should not take 2 more years for the United States to leave Afghanistan.'' Since I strongly agree with that statement, I have started an online petition to start bringing our troops home in the summer or fall of 2013. The petition can be signed through my Web site at jones.house.gov. And, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to tell you that in just 3 weeks, we have over 2,000 Americans that have signed this petition. Our goal is to reach as many people as possible to put the pressure on our leadership to stop the loss of life and treasure in Afghanistan.

Congress, let's get together and work on legislation to bring our troops home before the current timeline of December 2014.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, this is one of the many posters that I have that I bring to the floor. There's a flag-draped coffin. There's a group of Army officers. There's a woman holding the hand of a child. And you can see in the face of the child, Why is my daddy in that flag-draped coffin?

Congress, let's wake up. Let's come together. Let's start the process of bringing our troops home in 2013. Please, God, continue to bless our men and women in uniform. Please, God, continue to bless America.

BEYOND ''BIKE-PARTISANSHIP''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. For years, I have traveled the country preaching ''bike-partisanship,'' using bicycle and pedestrian facilities to help people burn calories, not fossil fuel, improve their health, have fun, and enrich the community. Red State, blue State, Republican, Democrat, Independent, it doesn't matter; the public gets it and has been part of an amazing renaissance. Let's redouble our efforts at creating a stronger Federal partnership to help more communities realize this vision.

But let's not stop with bike-partisanship. Are there other areas that are low or no cost that enjoy broad public support, solve problems, and bring people

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together rather than divide them? What about rebuilding and renewing America? Certainly the need is there.

Until recently, the T&I Committee was an island of congressional consensus. Since we merely extended the last transportation reauthorization and the new Congress must act in about 97 weeks, let's work on a bolder vision of investing in America, one that puts people to work, improves the economy, the environment, and saves money in the long run. Congress can begin on this now.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Congress can't ignore the near bankrupt flood insurance program. While we fix the short-term problems, however, let's make it more effective, efficient, and actuarially sound so that it will spare lives, property, and the Federal Treasury. Overhauling the flood insurance program would solve the most immediate challenges caused by extreme weather events likely due to global warming. We may even be able to discuss climate change in a more thoughtful and rational way.

Based on the work I've done in the past with Congressman PAUL RYAN and Senator-elect JEFF FLAKE, I know agricultural reform is a ripe opportunity. Taxpayers cannot afford to lavish unnecessary subsidies on large agribusiness while harming the environment and shortchanging small farmers and ranchers.

Surely Tea Party Republicans and members of the Progressive Caucus can come together to improve nutrition, wildlife habitats, hunting, and fishing while strengthening family farms.

And since Big Bird dodged a bullet during the Presidential campaign, maybe it's time to address the vital role that the Federal support for public broadcasting plays, which we all rely on—not just for news and information, but education for our kids and, as illustrated by Hurricane Sandy, emergency communication.

With incredibly broad public support from Americans regardless of political party, Congress should make a long-term financial commitment to funding the most trusted brand in broadcasting so it can plan for the future.

The last 10 years have been characterized by bipartisan cooperation to promote access to safe drinking water and sanitation around the globe. My 2005 legislation, cosponsored by Henry Hyde, Bill Frist, HARRY REID, saved lives and made friends for America.

In this Congress we have another bipartisan bill, Water for the World, which is cosponsored by my friend TED POE, which would build on that foundation and accelerate progress. It's all teed up and ready to go and could be easily passed next week.

Mr. Speaker, 86 percent of Americans think getting full information about their situation as a loved one faces the end of life should be a top priority for health care. Before the 2009 political ''lie of the year'' about ''death panels,'' this provision in the health care reform enjoyed broad bipartisan support.

There is new legislation to personalize people's health care so that they get the information they need to make these difficult, sometimes painful, decisions and make sure their decisions, whatever they are, are respected by doctors and hospitals. This refined legislation could easily be achieved now that we're implementing health care reform.

These are all bipartisan, cost-effective initiatives that are overwhelmingly embraced by the public. Is it perhaps time to have a Legislators' Caucus, where Members in both parties who just want to get something done can come together with ideas like these? Who knows? Working together to get something done might become habit-forming.

LOOK OUT FOR OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to share a plea from home, from Tony, about the impending fiscal cliff.

Tony writes:

> We are going to have to go over the fiscal cliff and see the economy crumble before the majority of the people realize how much trouble we are really in.
>
> I have end-stage renal failure, am on Medicare, and receive disability each month. I do dialysis three times a week. That said, I will willingly and gladly take a reduction in my benefits if it means we can reduce our deficit. I have two young nieces, and I am looking out for their financial future. In fact, if I knew that taking away all my benefits would get rid of our debt, I would do that today.

Mr. President, hear Tony's plea. Don't take us over the fiscal cliff. Tony and his nieces need you to lead. They need it now.

□ 1010

AMERICA'S LATINOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I'm here today to make an introduction. I would like the Republican Party to meet America's Latinos. There are more than 53 million of us. But let me tell you a little bit about who we are and what we do.

First of all, most Latinos are citizens; and, in fact, most of us have been here for many generations. We live all over the United States, and our population is growing fast. In fact, every single year, 500,000 young Latino citizens turn 18 and become eligible to vote. Of Latinos under the age of 18, 93 percent are already citizens of the United States of America. In this last election, one in 10 voters were Latino. In another decade, we will be 25 percent of the voting age population in this great Nation of ours.

Here's a key fact about the more than 16 million Latino immigrants. They work; and they work hard, often in jobs that are the hardest to fill, picking grapes and garlic, caring for young children in day care centers, sweeping and cleaning as janitors, and, yes, digging ditches and making sure our dishes are washed. You know what else they do? They pay taxes, regardless of their legal status.

But here's one last fact you should know about Latinos. They love America. And, my Republican friends, I promise you, in time, you'll love us, too.

I hope this introduction is helpful, but I know it's a little late. The Republican Party really met Latinos on Election Day. At about 11 p.m., when the race was over, pundits, political strategists, and Republican candidates opened their eyes to discover who really lives and votes in the U.S. It looked liked we were watching Columbus stumble across America. Latino voters, who knew? Demographic changes moving as slow as glaciers, but this one seemed to sneak up on the news media like a sudden thunderstorm.

I've been trying to introduce my colleagues to real Latinos and immigrants for some time. I've worked on bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bills and stayed at the table to work out a compromise even after all Republicans had left the table. But the Republican Party seemed much more interested in the imaginary Latinos they tried to use as a wedge issue, so they crafted messages aimed at the very few Americans who are not offended when immigrants are referred to as criminals, gang-bangers, freeloaders, and lawbreakers whenever they are spoken about in America.

The party nominated a Presidential candidate who carried around a to-do list of creative ways to offend Latinos. It called for the deportation of more than 10 million families and say to self-deport, check; celebrate the extreme Arizona post-immigration laws, check; threaten to veto the DREAM Act and let hundreds of thousands of young people who have applied for deferred action fear for their future, check; stand with other Republicans and begged for their endorsement when they have called for electrified fencing to keep out immigrants because ''that works on livestock,'' check, check, check.

I believe Election Day was a checkmate for extreme, unfair, and intolerant anti-immigrant policies. Now, we need to come together to make progress.

In truth, some Democrats did not seem to really see this new electorate either or see the change coming. Too many Democrats did not see immigration reform as an urgent issue or recognize the need for change in a country that deports 1,000 people a day.

We need to set aside the mistakes of both parties and do what is right for the American people, including Latino immigrants. We need to invite Democrats and Republicans to sit at a big

table to work out immigration reform as soon as possible.

I have suggested that President Obama set up that big table at Camp David and invite leaders from both parties to discuss how we forge the coalition to pass comprehensive immigration reform. I think after the Election Day wake-up call, there are more and more of us willing to come to that table and negotiate, including friends in the Republican Party.

We have heard from Republican leaders who want to be at that table. I know some Republicans want to come to the table because they want the immigration issue off the table. They want it off the table because they are worried about Democrats running the table in statewide and national elections for the foreseeable future.

But listen, whatever your reason for coming to the table, please come. Together, we can fight for justice for immigrants. Together, we can reestablish the rule of law. Together, we can make immigration one of the greatest and most defining aspects of American society instead of something that divides us. Together, we can make Americans see that we can work together—Republicans and Democrats—as Americans first. So, please, join us and do what's right for this great Nation of ours.

THANKSGIVING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, in just about a week or so, we're going to be sitting down at tables celebrating Thanksgiving and eating turkey and getting a little sleepy maybe afterwards. But as we think about Thanksgiving and we think about the holiday of Thanksgiving Day, it may be interesting and it may add a little richness to that holiday if we remember how it came about and what we have to be thankful for.

There were originally a group of people that came to this country on the Mayflower, and a number of them onboard had the dream of building a new kind of country, something that Europe had never seen before. They believed that they would take principles that they found in the Bible and that they would apply them in a new way and create a new structure of what a country could look like.

So they came to America. And after landing, within the first 4 months, half of them had died. And you would think they would pretty much give up on a dream at that point. The Mayflower had stayed to give them some protection and shelter, so it was in the early springtime that this group of the people that were left—about 55 of the Pilgrims—had to make a decision. You could think of it as actually voting, only voting with their feet.

They were approached by the captain of the Mayflower, and the captain of the Mayflower said, Things aren't going so well. I've lost half my crew, and half of you are dead, and we are going to be heading back to England. And I recommend that you get on the Mayflower because you don't have adequate supplies, and you don't have really a knowledge of how you're going to be able to deal with the wilderness that you are living in.

So it was that the Mayflower's captain gave the commands, the old seaweed-covered anchor cable was hauled onboard, the yardarms were trimmed to the wind, and first large and then small, the Mayflower disappears over the horizon. The wind is blowing through the trees, and 55 courageous men, women, and children stood on the beach.

Why did they stay? They stayed because they believed in the dream that they had in their hearts, of making a new nation. And by staying, they gave us some things that we should be thankful for, not just the Thanksgiving turkey.

First of all, they came with the idea that civil government and church government were separate types of governments, and the civil government shouldn't run the church or the other way around.

□ 1020

So they were what was called in those days ''separatists'' because they wanted to separate from the King of England who was running the Church.

So the first thing they gave us was the concept of separating civil and church governments. But the second thing that happened was, when they arrived in Massachusetts, they were blown off course by the storms; and so they had no government. So a group of free people, under God, wrote a document called the Mayflower Compact. It starts: ''In the name of God,'' and it goes on to say to frame just and equal laws.

So what happened was a group of free people, under God, created a civil government, and that of course was the foundation of our Declaration of Independence. And all of American civil government we can trace back to these courageous 55 people who stayed on the beach.

So as you're having your turkey, think about how they gave us the idea of separating civil and church governments, and also how it was that they gave us the idea that our Creator gives us life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Have a great Thanksgiving. God bless you.

OLD REPUBLICAN REFRAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, the Republican refrain is quite familiar: these tax increases will cause economic devastation, a recession, millions of lost jobs. Is that today's fiscal cliff? No. Actually, that's the Republicans in opposing the Clinton-era tax increases, 1993, opposed by every Republican.

Did their predicted doom and gloom come true? Well, kind of not, actually. We balanced the budget, we paid down debt, and we had 3.8 percent unemployment while the millionaires and billionaires were paying a slightly higher rate of taxes.

Fast forward to today's debate: restore the Clinton-era tax rates to millionaires and billionaires. Republicans have dusted off the nineties rhetoric—economic collapse, devastation, at least 700,000 jobs. The job-creator millionaires and billionaires, they're living on the edge. They have no discretionary income. Any modest increase in taxes to them will stop them from making productive, job-creating investments, like the hundreds of millions of dollars they spent on super PACs in the last election to try and elect a President and a Congress that will bend to their will and lower their taxes even further while cutting middle-income families' programs that are essential, like Social Security and student financial aid.

Now, after their impassioned defense of tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires, Republicans do have a second priority—they're not a one-note party, so you've got to give them credit for that—and that is to somehow kill Social Security, which they've never supported. They think it makes people lazy. Well, there are millionaires and billionaires that don't ever expect they will need it, so they don't care.

And under the guise of deficit reduction, the Republicans are saying, well, we've either got to privatize Social Security, got to increase the retirement age, or we've got to reduce the already inadequate COLA that seniors get. Let's chain the CPI. That's their refrain: we must cut entitlements. Well, guess what, Social Security has never contributed one penny to the deficit or the debt of the United States of America. It is a program which pays for itself.

So why this single-minded focus on cutting Social Security? Yeah, it does have a projected problem of about 23 percent to pay full benefits starting in 2036. So, yeah, there's a long-term problem; but, actually, that's quite easily fixed. All we have to do is close the tax loophole. And maybe we agree there.

Here's a loophole I'd like to close: Why does a millionaire pay one-tenth the rate of taxes to Social Security of a cop on the beat, or a soldier in the field, or a teacher in the classroom? I don't know. That's what the law says. Well, how about we lift the cap and have the millionaires and billionaires pay the same percent of their income to Social Security as cops and teachers and soldiers in the military. Seems fair to me. There's a loophole we could close. And that would give Social Security assets adequate to pay 100 percent of benefits for at least 75 years into the future, as far as the actuaries will

guarantee. So there's a loophole we can agree on closing, hopefully.

But they are going to have to give up on this lame argument that somehow making millionaires and billionaires pay taxes at the rate of the Clinton era, when we had record low unemployment, will hurt our economy.

GRANTING PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TO RUSSIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of a district that recorded more than $2 billion in exports last year, I know full well the significance of expanding market access for American companies and ensuring that our businesses are competing on a level playing field. That's why I believe it's important to support passage of H.R. 6156, which will grant permanent normal trade relations to Russia.

This past August, Russia joined the World Trade Organization, giving its members full access to Russia's rapidly growing market, reduced tariffs, and ensured transparency when implementing trade measures. However, while foreign competitors are currently benefiting, the U.S. will not receive any of these benefits until Congress authorizes the President to grant Russia permanent normal trade relations. Simply put, American companies, workers, and farmers are being put at a competitive disadvantage.

Last year, my home State of Michigan exported $225 million worth of goods to Russia, despite many of its best products facing tough competition from foreign competitors. With this agreement in place, farmers and producers in my district will be assured of more predictable market access for their crops and agricultural goods, while manufacturers will enjoy reduced tariff rates for Michigan-made vehicles and equipment.

As a World Trade Organization member, Russia has agreed to comply with the rule of law. Though these reforms won't happen overnight, Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization requires their compliance with all of the organization's rules and duties. This includes addressing discriminatory practices, enforcing intellectual property rights, and increasing transparency. If it does not comply, members can enforce them through dispute mechanisms.

Of further importance, this legislation includes critical human rights provisions which will hold foreign officials accountable for gross human rights abuses and prevent them from entering the U.S. or accessing our financial systems.

House Republicans have worked tirelessly during the 112th Congress to advance pro-growth legislation which provides greater certainty for American companies and helps our Nation's businesses hire more American workers. We've made great gains in advancing trade interests for the U.S. and promoting new market opportunities for our companies.

An ambitious trade agenda must continue for us to successfully lower the unemployment rate and restore our place as the global economic leader, and I'm glad we have the opportunity to pass another part of that plan today. If we're going to jump-start our economy and get Americans back to work, we have to find ways to increase global market access for American companies and to advance economic freedom.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation today.

CALLING FOR AN END TO WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues here in Congress from both sides of the aisle to call for an end to the war in Afghanistan. After more than a decade of war, with now more than 2,000 lives lost and hundreds of billions of American tax dollars spent, it's time for our troops to come home to their families.

I represent the military communities of Travis Air Force Base, and come January I will represent the community of Beale Air Force Base as well. I can tell you from firsthand experience that the men and women who serve in our Nation's military and their families are America's finest. They are not afraid of sacrifice. They joined the armed forces because they love our country and they are willing to give everything to keep our Nation safe, but their sacrifice must be for a reason. If we're going to ask them to risk life and limb on the other side of the world, it must be for a mission that is vital to our Nation's security. We can no longer say that about the mission in Afghanistan.

Our brave soldiers are continuing to die in Afghanistan for what is now a war of choice. We sent them to eliminate the terrorists responsible for the terrible 9/11 tragedy, and they did it with remarkable courage and competence. The al Qaeda training camps have long been eliminated; most of al Qaeda's top leaders have been killed or captured; Osama bin Laden is long dead.

□ 1030

Terrorism remains a global threat, and we must combat it. But keeping tens of thousands of troops in a country the size of Texas is no way to achieve this objective. Rather, we must continue to use our superb intelligence capabilities and our special operation forces to root out the terrorist networks and destroy their leaderships wherever they may be.

When we do bring our troops home, we must ensure that our returning heroes receive the support that is their due when they get back. We must make sure that they have access to housing, medical care, employment, educational opportunities that they deserve, and we must take care of all of our veterans.

The war in Afghanistan has lasted 11 long years, and it must not last another. It's time to bring our troops home. And as we do so, we must turn our attention to rebuild America's economy. One way to do this is to focus on enhancing our green energy sector.

The American wind energy industry is in jeopardy. The production tax credit will end December 31, 2012. It must be extended or else 30,000 jobs will be lost and 450 manufacturing businesses will close.

Two additional measures must also be considered. First, we could apply the master limited partnership and the real estate investment tax programs to the green energy sector and, thereby, bring significant financing opportunities along with the production tax credit.

AVOIDING THE FISCAL CLIFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, while the President returned from the campaign trail last week with a slightly more conciliatory tone, his insistence on a year-end tax hike on small businesses is unchanged, and frankly, that is completely unacceptable.

It is unacceptable for more than 23 million Americans struggling for work right now. It's unacceptable for millions of middle class Americans struggling to support their families with rising gas prices and higher health insurance costs. And it's unacceptable because it will destroy jobs and hurt our economy.

Yesterday, the President said that his reelection victory is a mandate to help the middle class. He can start with helping the middle class by stopping his job-killing tax hike on small businesses.

The President continues to call for increased tax rates for the top two brackets, which hit more than 1 million small businesses and 53 percent of all small business income. That's a big problem, considering that small businesses create two out of every three jobs in America.

According to the Ernst & Young report, the President's plan will result in the elimination of 700,000 jobs.

The position of the congressional Republicans on extending current income tax rates for all Americans is far from extreme. It is actually the same exact position that President Obama espoused 2 years ago when he agreed to extend all Bush-era tax rates for 2 years on the basis that raising tax rates would hurt our weak economy.

That logic still stands. In fact, our economy is even weaker today than it

was in 2010. GDP growth is lower than in 2010, in large part due to the looming cost of the President's health care law and his administration's dramatic increase in regulations.

With more than 23 million Americans struggling to find work, that is not the time to be raising taxes on anyone, period.

We must also find common ground on the defense sequester to ensure that spending cuts are implemented, but in a way that does not weaken our military or threaten our national security.

Both the tax and spending issues we face in lame duck are a microcosm of our Nation's massive fiscal and economic long-term challenges. Entitlement reform and comprehensive, pro-growth tax reform in the 113th Congress are key to addressing our Nation's greatest challenges.

The policy outcome and the narrative that transpire from this lame duck session will set the stage for what is possible in 2013 and beyond. We have a critical opportunity right now to avert the fiscal cliff and lay the groundwork for bipartisanship with policies that reflect our economic and our fiscal realities.

DELIVERING ON VOTERS' DEMAND FOR BOTH PARTIES TO COMPROMISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Those of you watching on C–SPAN just heard from my friend from Tennessee the unwillingness of the Republican side of the aisle to even recognize that elections have consequences, that, in fact, the President won reelection decisively. Democrats made gains in the Senate and gains here in the House.

It's time to put aside the talking points. It's time to come together for this country.

Mr. Speaker, Speaker BOEHNER actually said it well. He said the mandate from the election of last week is ''for us to find a way to work together on solutions to the challenges we face as a Nation.''

I can't agree more. Elections have consequences, and our ability to avert the fiscal cliff, in which expiring tax cuts and across-the-board spending cuts are on a collision course to derail this economy, requires us to respect that directive from voters.

Yet, once again, lines are being drawn—you just heard it—over what types of revenue will be considered or what cuts are considered too steep. I hope I was not the only one astounded by the comments of the CEO of the American Petroleum Institute, who recently said, ''the oil and gas industry will not be singled out for punitive treatment.''

How fascinating. Perhaps I could introduce him to the Federal workforce, our Federal employees who are, so far, the only group to be singled out for punitive treatment, to the tune of $75 billion of deficit reduction. They understand the principle of shared sacrifice and have patiently been waiting for everybody else to actually share in it.

Mr. Speaker, our chances for success in fending off the fiscal cliff become even slimmer if we start removing options from the table, as my friend from Tennessee just did, before we've even sat down at that table. America voted for and deserves a divided government that actually works.

The last time I checked, divided government doesn't mean it's going to be my way or the highway, or your way or the highway, or Grover Norquist's way or the highway. Divided government can and has succeeded in the past when leaders have done that thing which we have not been able to achieve very often in these last 2 years: compromise.

That is the singular message from our voters this year, compromise. Work together to move the economy, our families, and our Nation forward. I've repeatedly heard that mantra from across my community, whether it's from seniors, teachers, small businesses or my own neighbors.

And now the Nation's business leaders are starting to echo that call. In fact, the head of the Business Roundtable, the former Republican Governor of Michigan, and other top CEOs are asking Congress to do just that, compromise.

In addition, the Task Force of American Innovation, comprised of our Nation's top technology companies, is urging us to preserve Federal investments in education and R&D, which are the bedrock of future innovation and competitiveness. And this week even the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said it was open to a compromise that included revenue.

These are the constructive voices I hope my colleagues listen to as we approach negotiations on the fiscal cliff. Politics is the art of compromise and, working together, we can reduce our Nation's deficit and preserve strategic investments in those programs that fuel economic growth and competitiveness.

Even in the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln and the 38th Congress authorized the Transcontinental Railroad, the Homestead Act, and the land grant college and university system. They understood we had to invest in the future, while also dealing with the crisis of the present.

No doubt, we all have something to lose if we do not succeed. So perhaps, by each of us giving a little, we can revive this economic recovery, restore faith in our ability to govern responsibly, and deliver on that mandate we just got last week from the voters.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

□ 1040

POISONOUS PARTISANSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons I rarely come to the floor to make such comments is that it is so troublesome to me that we will have fact-free debates. One of the problems is that we are talking in a parallel universe. There are small businesses that will pay more taxes, but I think it is important to say to you that the top hedge fund managers last year earned $22 billion and then paid a 15 percent tax rate as small businesses. So I am troubled when we are not being accurate and factual with the American public.

Mr. Speaker, my concern today—and I believe it is the concern of many Americans—is the situation in which we find ourselves. The American people have elected a government wherein only cooperation can bring progress. We have a House of Representatives that is predominantly Republican, and we have a Democratically controlled Senate. It would not take a 3-year-old a great deal of time to figure out that the only way we can do the work of the American people is if we stop this ridiculous partisanship—this poisonous partisanship—that is damaging the country and creating a level of anger. There are State legislators in at least 13 States who have introduced legislation for secession from the Union based on the fact that they didn't particularly like the President who was elected. One of the reasons, I think, is that we are exporting hate. If it's not hate, it's certainly anger, and ''anger'' is just one letter short of ''danger.''

The American people gave us a mandate to do the simple things, and that is to lead. We understand that the challenge before Congress in the coming weeks is no simple task. I would be wrong if I said that what we need to do is simple. We have some major challenges:

The Postal Service is losing $25 million a week, and we are running around here acting as if the most important thing in the world is remaining faithful to our ideology. Ideology, tragically, has trumped logic in this place, and that cannot continue. Right now, we are facing hundreds of billions of dollars in expiring tax cuts. It might be important, Mr. Speaker, for all of us to keep in mind that, if we fail to deal with the sequestration issue, 90 percent of the people in this country will have their taxes raised.

But there is another problem.

We have three major credit rating agencies in this country—actually, for the world, essentially—Standard & Poor's, Moody's and then Fitch. We have been warned as a Congress and as a Nation that if we walk up to this precipice again as we did two Augusts ago that we will suffer another downgrading of our credit rating. The

United States of America—the most technologically powerful and economically powerful Nation on the planet—will have a credit downgrading.

This should cause every American to be angry enough to put aside petty partisanship and understand that this body will not function and that our government will not function unless we work together. We've got to come to the conclusion that compromise does not equal capitulation.

POVERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. As the founder of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus, I rise today to continue talking about the ongoing crisis of poverty in our country.

Yesterday, unfortunately, with the supplemental poverty report, we learned that poverty continues to impact nearly 50 million Americans, including 16 million children all across our country and in every congressional district. My home State of California tops the list, followed by our Nation's capital—the District of Columbia—Arizona, Florida, and Georgia.

On this election day, low-income Americans, the working poor, middle-income Americans—every American—spoke loudly and clearly. They voted for strengthening the middle class and for putting people back to work, and they voted for Congress to get back to doing the work of the American people: to strengthen our economy for all Americans and to create economic opportunities that will lift millions of families out of poverty and into the middle class. Most importantly, the American people voted to reject job-killing cuts and a tax on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

What they don't want is for our country to be rushed into urgent budget decisions by the false threat of a so-called ''fiscal cliff.'' Mr. Speaker, I don't buy it, and the American people don't believe it either.

This economic and political gridlock is just another political cliff created by the hostage-taking obstructionism of the Tea Party-controlled Congress. The real cliff that anyone is facing today is a human cliff, and far too many American families are standing on the edge as I speak. If we don't strengthen our economy for all Americans, millions will be cut off from the only lifeline keeping them from falling off that human cliff and into poverty—unemployment compensation. Far too many people will be cut off from vital programs like employment insurance, the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit if this Congress fails to act.

It is long past time to come together, to work to find a balanced approach and, as Chairman CLEAVER just said, to get past the partisan obstructionism that has kept us from moving our economy and our country forward. We have got to stop this. Just 10 years ago, in the year 2000, our Nation had a balanced budget, projected surpluses, and a robust economy. The passage of a serious tax cut rapidly ended those surpluses and began to, quite frankly, explode the debt. The Bush-era tax cuts have already cost over $2.2 trillion in Federal revenue since they were enacted, and we cannot afford to allow them to be made permanent. Let's not forget, Mr. Speaker, that this Congress has already voted to cut $1.5 trillion in discretionary spending enacted through the 2011 Budget Control Act.

Low-income Americans are already hurting from multiple rounds of cuts to programs and benefits that they rely on. Our middle class and our working poor have already done their part, and we cannot continue to attempt to balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable Americans—our poor, our seniors, our children, and our disabled.

So I hope all Members of Congress will follow the President's lead and support his call for ending the Bush tax cuts above $250,000, ending the billions in subsidies for Big Oil, and closing the countless loopholes that allow huge corporations and the super rich to avoid paying what they owe. In addition, we can find billions in additional savings by making smart and targeted cuts to our defense budgets. Our military leaders have already outlined cuts that will not put at risk our brave men and women in harm's way or weaken the national security of our Nation. We know that there are billions in waste, fraud, and abuse in the defense budgets that can be saved if we can just account for the hundreds of billions in spending by ensuring the Pentagon can pass an audit.

□ 1050

Mr. Speaker, we face many challenges, but we must not allow our political crisis to create an economic crisis for millions of Americans who are struggling. Now is not the time to turn our backs on struggling families just to preserve tax giveaways to millionaires and billionaires. We must come together to wage a war on poverty and end the war on the poor.

Finally, as 350 economists have said, we need jobs first. With recovery, deficit reduction will come by its own accord thanks to increased revenues in an improving economy. They went on to say that public outlay for jobs and recovery come first, growth is restored, and revenues follow. Budget cuts only lead to a deeper slump.

CENSUS: FULLER POVERTY PICTURE FINDS 49.7M ARE POOR, FACTORING IN MEDICAL AND WORK EXPENSES

(By Associated Press, November 14, 2012)

WASHINGTON—The ranks of America's poor edged up last year to a high of 49.7 million, based on a new census measure that takes into account medical costs and work-related expenses.

The numbers released Wednesday by the Census Bureau are part of a newly developed supplemental poverty measure. Devised a year ago, this measure provides a fuller picture of poverty that the government believes can be used to assess safety-net programs by factoring in living expenses and taxpayer-provided benefits that the official formula leaves out.

Based on the revised formula, the number of poor people exceeded the 49 million, or 16 percent of the population, who were living below the poverty line in 2010. That came as more people in the slowly improving economy picked up low-wage jobs last year but still struggled to pay living expenses. The revised poverty rate of 16.1 percent also is higher than the record 46.2 million, or 15 percent, that the government's official estimate reported in September.

Due to medical expenses, higher living costs and limited immigrant access to government programs, people 65 or older, Hispanics and urbanites were more likely to be struggling economically under the alternative formula. Also spiking higher in 2011 was poverty among full-time and part-time workers.

As a result, the portrait of poverty broken down by state notably changes. California tops the list, hurt by high housing costs, large numbers of immigrants as well as less generous tax credits and food stamp programs to buoy low-income families. It is followed by the District of Columbia, Arizona, Florida and Georgia.

In the official census tally, it was rural states that were more likely to be near the top of the list, led by Mississippi, New Mexico, Arizona and Louisiana.

''We're seeing a very slow recovery, with increases in poverty among workers due to more new jobs which are low-wage,'' said Timothy Smeeding, a University of Wisconsin-Madison economist who specializes in poverty. ''As a whole, the safety net is holding many people up, while California is struggling more because it's relatively harder there to qualify for food stamps and other benefits.''

Broken down by group, poverty was disproportionately affecting people 65 and older—about 15.1 percent, or nearly double the 8.7 percent rate calculated under the official formula. That's because they have higher medical expenses, such as Medicare premiums, deductibles and drug costs, that aren't factored into the official rate.

While poverty rates for older Americans as a whole are higher, the new measure does show improvement in their income levels—about 15.1 percent were poor last year, down from 15.8 percent in 2010. Smeeding attributes that to a wave of more affluent, still-working baby boomers in dual-income households who are beginning to turn 65 and, as a result, are slowly raising overall income levels for seniors.

Working-age adults ages 18–64 saw an increase in poverty from 13.7 percent based on the official calculation to 15.5 percent, due mostly to commuting and child care costs.

In contrast, the new measure showed declines in poverty for children, from 22.3 percent under the official formula to 18.1 percent. Still, they remained the age group most likely to be economically struggling by any measure.

''These new numbers only reinforce what AARP and AARP Foundation hear from real people every day: older Americans are struggling to make ends meet,'' said Deb Whitman, executive vice president of AARP, an advocacy group. ''Policymakers need to understand that not every senior is well off and the critically important role Social Security or Medicare plays as providing a safety net to keep even more older Americans out of poverty. As Washington debates what should happen during the lame duck, we cannot afford to undermine the current safety net that allows many to live with dignity.''

Hispanics and Asians also saw much higher rates of poverty, 28 percent and 16.9 percent, respectively, compared with rates of 25.4 percent and 12.3 percent under the official formula. Their poverty levels rose after the government took into account safety-net programs such as food stamps and housing, which have lower participation among immigrants and non-English speakers.

In contrast, African-Americans saw a modest decrease in poverty, from 27.8 percent under the official rate to 25.7 percent based on the revised numbers. Among non-Hispanic whites, poverty rose from 9.9 percent to 11 percent.

Economists long have criticized the official poverty rate as inadequate. Based on a half-century-old government formula, the official rate continues to assume the average family spends one-third of its income on food. Those costs have actually shrunk to a much smaller share, more like one-seventh.

The official formula also fails to account for other expenses such as out-of-pocket medical care, child care and commuting, and it does not consider noncash government aid, such as food stamps and tax credits, when calculating income.

In reaction to some of the criticism, the government in 2010 asked the Census Bureau to develop a new measure, based partly on recommendations made by the National Academy of Sciences. It released national numbers based on that formula for the first time last year. This year's release features a 50–state breakdown on poverty, prompted in part by local officials such as New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg who have argued that the official measure does not take into account urban costs of living and that larger cities may get less federal money as a result.

The goal is to help lawmakers to better gauge the effectiveness of anti-poverty programs, although it does not replace the Census Bureau's official poverty formula.

Among the findings:

—If it weren't for Social Security payments, the poverty rate would rise to 54.1 percent for people 65 and older and 24.4 percent for all age groups.

—Without refundable tax credits such as the earned income tax credit, child poverty would rise from 18.1 percent to 24.4 percent.

—Without food stamps, the overall poverty rate would increase from 16.1 percent to 17.6 percent.

''These figures are timely given the looming expiration of two key measures that account for part of these programs' large anti-poverty impact: federal emergency unemployment insurance and improvements in refundable tax credits'' such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, said Arloc Sherman, a senior researcher at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal-leaning think-tank. ''Letting these measures expire at year's end could push large numbers of families into poverty.''

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Alan Keiran, Office of the United States Senate, offered the following prayer:

Father God, as the Psalmist says, ''I will extol the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together.'' (Psalm 34:1–3)

We depend on You, King of Heaven's armies, to reveal to our Nation's leaders Your plans to prosper our Nation and its people, Your plans to give us hope and a bright future. Inspire every public servant to seek Your wisdom and pray for Your daily favor to fall upon our country and our world.

And may You, Lord, be with those who are in harm's way and their families. This I ask in the Name above every name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BIGGERT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ISRAEL TO THE RESCUE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as waves crashed across the east coast a few weeks ago, taxpayer dollars were still being funneled as foreign aid around the globe. And while families watched as superstorm Sandy washed away their homes and the livelihoods they had built for many years, over 158 countries were still busy cashing checks from America.

Mr. Speaker, out of all the countries we give aid to, I understand Israel was the only country to send a lifeboat in the wind and rain and flood to help our victims in America. Israel took the initiative to help the victims during this natural disaster. The Israel Flying Aid organization has been giving gas to hospitals and batteries, food, and generators to superstorm Sandy victims.

We've been there for many countries in the world. We send them our money, but it's no secret that many of them hate us. They betray us, and yet we still write them checks. While the United States needs to reevaluate giving foreign aid to nations that hate us, thanks should be given to our faithful ally Israel.

And that's just the way it is.

COMBAT DRONE PROGRAMS

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. American drones in Pakistan have killed as many as 3,378 people. Drones in Yemen have killed as many as 1,952 people. Drones in Somalia have killed as many as 170 people. We've not declared war on any of these nations, but our weapons have killed innocent civilians in all of them. Highly reputable research shows that the number of high-level targets killed as a percentage of total casualties is estimated at about 2 percent.

According to The Washington Post, the Obama administration is working on efforts to institutionalize the practice of targeted killings by unmanned drones abroad. The volume of these killings challenges the morality and the legality of the attacks. We are creating a precedent for other nations that are developing the same technology. China has just unveiled a new drone.

The drone program has thus far been conducted with no oversight from Congress or any judicial body. Congress has a constitutional responsibility to ensure that programs that are being conducted in the name of our Nation are legal, transparent, and accountable. We are holding a briefing tomorrow about this exact matter.

NICHOLAS DOMINGUEZ, A TRUE HOMETOWN HERO

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to applaud a true hometown hero—Nicholas Dominguez of Lockport, Illinois—for saving a woman who nearly drowned in Lake Michigan.

Earlier this year, Nicholas was enjoying time with his mother on a beach on the Indiana shore when he noticed an empty raft and swimmers in distress. Thanks to his quick thinking and selfless instincts, Nicholas was able to rescue Evelyn Hernandez, pulling her safely to a sandbar.

Several years ago, I had the privilege of nominating Nicholas to the U.S. Naval Academy, and I was pleased to congratulate him on his recent graduation. Today, as a second lieutenant in the Marines, he has already put on full

display his commitment and dedication as a U.S. officer. His actions in Lake Michigan reflect the marine motto ''Semper Fi''—or ''always faithful.'' I applaud Lieutenant Dominguez for making his country and his Corps proud.

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND HERSELF

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, in the past 24 hours alone, terrorists along the Gaza Strip have launched more than 250 rockets into southern Israel. That's 250 rockets in 1 day since Hamas began its strikes.

Imagine 250 rockets raining down in 1 day on your community anywhere in the United States. We would expect our government to act to protect our citizens. Israel is acting to protect her citizens. Israel has the right to protect her citizens from terrorist attacks. In the early hours of this morning, three Israeli civilians died when a rocket from Gaza struck the top floor of an apartment building. Later in the day, a rocket hit just 10 miles from Tel Aviv.

The United States mourns the loss of life at the hands of Hamas terrorists. We will not waver in our support of Israel's right to defend herself against these and other attacks. The right of any nation to defend its citizens can never be called into question. Mr. Speaker, at this challenging time for our great ally, the United States stands with Israel.

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOLD. I rise today to address the recent events in the Middle East. Our ally Israel, like every nation, must have the right to defend itself and its citizens against ongoing acts of terror.

We know now that the international community frequently looks for opportunities to delegitimize Israel's actions, which is why it is essential that we here in the United States of America loudly and publicly express our support for Israel's right to defend itself in the face of Hamas' terror.

Hamas is responsible for over 800 rocket attacks on Israel in 2012—with over 250 rockets indiscriminantly fired on Israel's citizens in the past 5 days alone. Because of this escalation, 1 million men, women and children in southern Israel have been forced to live under the threat of attacks and must now know where the nearest rocket shelter is located. As I speak, thousands of Israelis are sleeping in bomb shelters out of fear for their lives and the lives of their children.

Mr. Speaker, no nation would sit back and tolerate its population living under such threatening conditions. Certainly, we here in the United States would not.

PASS THE FARM BILL

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it's time to get to work. When Congress recessed for the election, we left much undone, including the farm bill, which is critical to the economy of my district and to our country.

Just this weekend, The Fresno Bee got it right when they wrote:

> There are some in Congress who suggest delaying the farm bill until after new Members begin serving in January. That's the easy way out, but it does not serve the interests of the Nation's farmers.

It also doesn't serve the families in need and children who depend upon the nutrition programs in the farm bill. It's time to get back to representing the interests of our constituents, not partisan politics. Dairymen are having a tough time in California. Our farmers need certainty, and only a 5-year farm bill can provide that. Both versions of the farm bill also save billions of dollars.

We have bipartisan agreement on this bill. We need to pass this bill so that we can go to conference committee to resolve the differences.

□ 1210

WE CAN AVOID THE FISCAL CLIFF

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, the American people are breathing a cautious sigh of relief now that the long election season is finally over. The House and Senate are both in session, and the American people are watching. We have much work to do and not much time to do it.

With unemployment hovering near 8 percent, our economy is still struggling. To get America back on track, we must work together, Democrats and Republicans, to find solutions to our economic challenges.

We all know it's not until small businesses begin growing and creating jobs that our economy will recover. The key to our future lies in new start-ups, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

Working together in a bipartisan way, we can avoid the fiscal cliff, provide certainty to these small businesses, remove barriers to success, and help renew the prosperity of the American people.

Last week our constituents spoke, and the mandate they gave us was a mandate to work together. We must listen to them and work with open ears and open minds to arrive at bipartisan solutions to the very serious issues facing our country.

THE COUNTRY NEEDS TAX RELIEF

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we are indeed back here in a lame-duck session with the most important issue facing us, which is a deadline on taxes and revenue. By previous action, we have to act or certain conditions will be created that will cause us to lose jobs and hurt our economy and raise taxes on everybody.

The President, the Senate, the Democrats, and the House are all in agreement that 98 percent of the country needs tax relief that has been given through the Bush tax cuts, and they should be extended.

I think everybody agrees that we don't need to make draconian cuts to services for people, Social Security or Medicare, or defense. The only issue is my colleagues on the other side, the Republicans in the House, who seem to continue to want to give tax relief to the upper 2 percent. That's what divides this Nation and this Congress right now, tax cuts for the richest 2 percent.

I call on my Republican colleagues to work with Speaker BOEHNER and allow him to lead this country in working with President Obama and to resolve this situation.

RECOGNITION OF DAVE WHITE, CHIEF OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Dave White, chief of the Natural Resource Conservation Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. After a career with NRCS that spanned nearly four decades, this week he announced his plans to retire.

Chief White has spent his career working to improve the Nation's land management policies and practices. Over the years, Dave has been an indispensable resource of experience and knowledge, from helping to craft the 2008 farm bill conservation title, to his leadership in implementing and improving these programs at NRCS.

Dave's work has helped the Nation achieve our shared objectives for sustaining agriculture and the natural resources upon which we all depend.

One area in particular is voluntary incentive-based conservation programs where Chief White has delivered a demonstrated track record in leveraging resources to maximize limited resources. In my home State of Pennsylvania, these efforts are helping to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, while also keeping farms profitable and ensuring that these farms remain in agriculture over the long term.

I want to thank Dave White for his dedicated service. Best of luck in your retirement, Chief.

A TRAGIC MARKER: 2,000-PLUS U.S. FATALITIES IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. McGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on October 2, while Congress was campaigning, the Pentagon registered the 2,000th fatality in Afghanistan, the longest war in American history. Today, that number has risen to 2,026.

It is imperative that we all remember the terrible human price that has been paid, is being paid, and will continue to be paid by our troops in Afghanistan and their families.

This year there have been 60 so-called ''blue on green'' killings of U.S. troops by Afghan soldiers that we're training. Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan kill themselves at a rate of one every 80 minutes. More Active Duty U.S. military personnel have died by suicide since the war in Afghanistan began than have died fighting there. Nearly 18,000 have been wounded in Afghanistan alone.

Let us bring them all home. Let us provide our veterans and active military the care and benefits that they have so bravely earned. Let's end the war in Afghanistan now.

DOING WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, we have just a few short weeks left in the 112th Congress, but our work here is far from done.

Sadly, partisan games and gridlock have made this Congress one of the least productive in history; but with the election finally behind us, I hope we will put aside our differences and get back to work.

That means passing a bipartisan farm bill to support our farmers and ranchers. It means extending the production tax credit to create jobs in a growing wind industry and reduce electricity bills for consumers. It means passing the Violence Against Women Act to protect women from abuse. And it means extending tax cuts for middle class families and small businesses now and passing a balanced plan to avert sequestration.

We must address these critical issues, and the only way to do that is by coming together and doing what's right for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the election is over. It's time to get back to work.

LET'S GET THE PEOPLE'S WORK DONE

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, the election is over for this cycle, and it is time to do the people's work.

The President is reelected, and he is our President for the next 4 years. Our constituents are tired and upset with our dysfunction. They can't begin to comprehend how we've allowed the fiscal cliff to happen. Many of them don't even understand what the fiscal cliff is about. All they know is that things like unemployment can rise to 9.1 percent unless we act. It is time to put the elections behind us and work together.

Mr. Speaker, we must focus on the people, especially the constituents of our colleagues who are suffering from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. We have got to work together and do the people's work. Isn't that what we've been sent here to do?

Mr. Speaker, let's get the people's work done.

LET'S GET THIS THING DONE

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, our President said something that I think this Congress needs to hear: the people of our districts sent us here to focus on their jobs, not our own.

We're racing towards a serious deadline, towards higher taxes on struggling families and slashed investments in things like food for mothers and infants, education, and our infrastructure. We're dragging people's jobs toward the brink and playing chicken with workers' and entrepreneurs' livelihoods.

I know I'm not the only one here who spent time with the families that missing this deadline will hurt. I know I'm not the only one who has visited the businesses that would collapse if this happened. The people in our districts need us to come together. They're counting on us to do the right thing, to leave our partisanship at the ballot box and to get to work.

So I say to all my friends and colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, let's get this thing done.

THE LEAST, THE LAST, AND THE LOST

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot of talk about the consequences of the fiscal cliff on the wealthy, the well-off, the well-heeled, and the well-to-do. We don't hear a lot of talk about how it will impact the least, the last, and the lost. Permit me today to share just a bit of information.

Rental assistance for the poor would fall by $2.3 billion. Nutrition programs for women, infants, and children would lose $543 million. Those who provide services to persons who get Medicare—doctors—would lose about $4 billion.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to have an act of Congress, we have to have a Congress willing to act. It is time for us to act, to protect the least, the last, and the lost, as well as others.

□ 1220

AVOIDING THE FISCAL CLIFF

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge Congress to deal with the fiscal cliff. The majority of Americans cast their ballots in support of the President and a balanced solution to our fiscal challenges that protects the middle class by asking everyone to pay their fair share.

Our job is to act. We should extend the middle class tax cuts now while we work on a long-term solution. We must work together because failure would have dire consequences for middle class jobs, the military, and crucial programs that help the middle class and the poor.

FIXING OUR ECONOMY

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the election is over. The people of this country have spoken and said loudly and clearly that they want us to work together to create jobs and fix our economy.

I agree with economists who say that the threat of a fiscal cliff, like the need to immediately reduce the deficit, is being overblown. And it is done like the debt ceiling debacle to create a do-or-die situation where it is hoped that Democrats would agree to cuts in programs that would lose jobs and lock more people into poverty. That is unacceptable in this, the greatest country in the world, and we cannot agree to it.

We are being asked to cut the deficit by $4 trillion over 10 years. Through cuts and caps put in place already, over the next 10 years we are projected to cut that deficit by $1.7 trillion. That leaves $2.3 trillion. If we allow the growth in the economy to continue, even at its present slow pace, that can help to reduce the need for that level of cuts even more.

The poor and the middle class are already doing their part through the cuts that are already in place. Now it is time for everyone else to do theirs. The rest of the deficit reduction must come primarily from eliminating tax cuts for the wealthy who have continued to do very well during the recession while everyone else suffered.

This Congress can avoid taking us to yet another fiscal cliff and avoid sequestration by working together in the balanced way that the American people have asked us to.

RESOLVING ISSUES AND WORKING TOGETHER

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say to our colleagues that it is very gratifying that in just a few minutes we are going to begin to address the first issue that will come before us as a lame-duck Congress, and it's an issue that is going to be addressed in a bipartisan way. I'm very happy to see my friend from Worcester here, who has joined with me in doing a ''Dear Colleague'' in support of passage of permanent normal trade relations for Russia and Moldova. Our commitment to economic growth and human rights is one which has led us to this point, Mr. Speaker.

And I think that the idea with the mandate from the election was for us to resolve issues and work together, and we are going to have a chance to do that. And so as I get ready to call up the rule in just a moment, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my colleagues that this is a great day for us to take on the very, very serious challenges. And I believe that the success we are going to have, with the bipartisanship that is going to be demonstrated on this issue, should lay the groundwork for the work of the rest of this Congress and I hope very much for the next Congress as well.

SUPPORTING WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. TONKO, as well as all of the members of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, for being such strong advocates for a responsible and sustainable energy future.

Today I rise to speak in favor of the wind production tax credit and urge my colleagues to support its extension. Wind power and other sources of renewable energy are a vital and central part of a sustainable energy future, and they can be harvested right here in America.

In my own district, for example, I am very proud to say that there are currently six companies operating wind power plants. These power plants not only generate energy but also jobs and manufacturing right here at home.

I urge this Congress to support the extension here because it will put people to work in good paying jobs, help rebuild our manufacturing base, and help us achieve energy independence.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6156, RUSSIA AND MOLDOVA JACKSON-VANIK REPEAL AND SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 808 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 808

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6156) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of the Russian Federation and Moldova and to require reports on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112-33 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 90 minutes of debate, with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means and 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day during the period from November 19, 2012, through November 23, 2012—(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; (b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment; and (c) bills and resolutions introduced during the period addressed by this section shall be numbered, listed in the Congressional Record, and when printed shall bear the date of introduction, but may be referred by the Speaker at a later time.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me say how great it is to see you in the Chair, and I wish you well.

Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very good friend from Worcester, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me say, as I just mentioned in my 1-minute, it is very gratifying that, as we look at this election, we have many people who have used the term ''mandate'' to describe what it is they have gotten. The President says he has a mandate to increase taxes. Some Republicans say we have a mandate to not increase taxes. Lots of people throw this word ''mandate'' around.

I believe that the mandate is for us to focus on job creation and economic growth. And while we still embrace the Madisonian vision of the clash of ideas—it's a very, very important notion put forward by the author of the U.S. Constitution—at the end of the day, it's important for us to do something. And I think that the mandate from the election is that the American people want us to do everything that we can to create jobs, get the economy growing, and deal with many of the societal challenges that we face.

Mr. Speaker, that's why I say it is very gratifying that the first item out of the chute after the election is something we will be able to do in a bipartisan way. Not that it hasn't been controversial, and I will admit, Mr. Speaker, that there is controversy that surrounds this issue, and I'm going to talk about it, but I will say that it is great that we'll be able to do something, with Republicans and Democrats in the House, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate, and the President of the United States on the same page in support of Russia's accession to the WTO and, most particularly, the opportunity for the United States of America, our workers, to have access to 142 million consumers in that country.

So, Mr. Speaker, on August 22, Russia became a member of the World Trade Organization. Again, a huge economy. In fact, the last large economy to actually become a member of the WTO, and that's a good thing. It's a good thing because Vladimir Putin is not a good guy. It's a good thing because we are going to, not only with accession of the WTO but also with the multifarious provisions that are included in this measure, call on the United States Trade Representative, call on the State Department, and call on other entities to focus on things like intellectual property violations, negotiations, sanitary and phytosanitary agreements, the information technology agreement, and the government procurement agreement.

□ 1230

There are a wide range of provisions in here that will force Russia to live with a structure that it does not have today and will not have until we take this very important action.

Now one of the reasons that I have been such a strong proponent of this issue has to do with a name, and it's not the name we're going to be talking about in a minute. The name is Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky is a businessman who was jailed and at this moment is incarcerated in the midst of a 7-year additional extension of his sentence for so-called ''tax evasion.''

Now I mention those two words in explaining why I'm here because I met

Mr. Khodorkovsky, who was the head of Yukos Oil and was widely respected. I'm sure he was a great businessman. But he was widely respected and was a great philanthropist in Russia. He was a critic of Vladimir Putin's. And as we all know, and as I said, he is incarcerated today for one thing and one thing only: being a critic of Vladimir Putin's. That's really why he's in prison.

Well, the reason I am standing here and am such a strong proponent of the action that we're about to take is that after I had met with Mr. Khodorkovsky in Moscow, he sat in my office right upstairs here in the Rules Committee. And in that meeting that I had with him, Mr. Khodorkovsky—a great philanthropist, one of the wealthiest people in Russia—said to me, I'm concerned about my safety and well-being. I think that there might be action taken against me.

Mr. Speaker, I am embarrassed to say that my reaction was to laugh at him. I said, There's no way that a man of your stature, doing the kinds of good things that you've been doing in Russia, will face anything other than broad-based support.

Mr. Speaker, I was wrong. The human rights violations which have taken place against Mikhail Khodorkovsky and a wide range of other people are one of the other reasons that we are here, pushing very, very strongly for permanent normal trade relations to force Russia to do something that they might not want to do, and that is to live with a rules-based trading system.

The other name that leads us here, of course, is Sergei Magnitsky, a young lawyer who was simply raising questions, a so-called whistleblower, a whistleblower who was beaten to death 3 years ago tomorrow. Tomorrow marks the third anniversary of Sergei Magnitsky's death. And it is outrageous, Mr. Speaker, that this kind of action in this 21st century still exists in a country that claims to be a democracy. It is horrendous, and it is unacceptable. And that's why I believe coupling the permanent normal trade relations for Russia and Moldova along with the Magnitsky language—and I want to congratulate our Senate colleagues BEN CARDIN and JON KYL, and I know my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) has been involved in pushing this. I strongly support the effort that we have had that will ensure that those who are responsible for Sergei Magnitsky's tragic, brutal beating, which led to his death 3 years ago tomorrow, will be followed and be brought to justice.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a great bipartisan effort. It's one that I think will inure to the benefit of the people of Russia and the people of the United States. And I would like to say that, remember, we're not giving up a thing. We're not lowering a single tariff. There is not a single sacrifice that's being made here in the United States of America. What we're doing is we're breaking down the barriers there.

Last year, we exported $11 billion to Russia. The projection is that by 2017, our exports will be $22 billion, twice what we have today. And there are a number who anticipate that they will go actually beyond that.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me just say that this is a win-win all the way around. It's a win for the cause of human rights. It's a win for the cause of those of us—Democrats and Republicans alike—who want to create good American jobs so that we can have access to 142 million consumers. And it's a win for the people of Russia, who deserve better than they have gotten and, through the U.S. access to that market, will have an opportunity to see their standard of life and quality of life improve, because I believe passionately in the interdependence of economic and political liberalization.

This accession to the WTO will enhance economic liberalization, and it will create an opportunity. I hope and pray for the kind of political reform that is desperately needed.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California, the honorable chairman of the Rules Committee, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

I want to thank him for his eloquent statement, and I want to thank him for bringing this to the floor. As he mentioned, he and I both coauthored a Dear Colleague and supported the underlying legislation. And it was a pleasure to work with him on this important bill.

And I know that there will be other opportunities to say this before he departs. But I want to thank him for his service to this House of Representatives, which I know he loves very deeply. And I want to thank him for his service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6156 joins together two pieces of legislation that deal with trade and human rights in the Russian Federation. The distinguished chairman has provided a clear description of the provisions in this bill that grant permanent normal trade relations, or PNTR, to the nations of Moldova and the Russian Federation. It is fairly straightforward.

Simply put, after 18 years of negotiations, Russia joined the World Trade Organization in August. That membership will require Russia—for the first time—to play by the same rules of trade as the United States and virtually every other nation in the world.

But under WTO rules, the United States cannot take advantage of Russia's WTO membership unless and until Congress grants Russia permanent normal trade relations, replacing the 1974 special bilateral agreement with Russia known as the Jackson-Vanik amendment.

The United States is not required to change any U.S. law as a result of Russia's WTO membership other than this change to the 1974 trade law. This is in contrast to bilateral free trade agreements where the United States is required to provide duty-free treatment.

If that were all there was to H.R. 6156, it would pass or fail along familiar lines of trade-related legislation. But, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6156 will become known as a landmark piece of trade legislation not because it grants PNTR for Russia and Moldova but because it includes title IV, the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012.

Let me share with my colleagues just a little bit about the life and death of Sergei Magnitsky, in whose honor this section of the bill is named.

After exposing the largest tax fraud in Russian history, tax lawyer Sergei Magnitsky was wrongly arrested and tortured in a Russian prison. Six months later, he became seriously ill. He was denied medical attention despite 20 formal requests. On the night of November 16, 2009—3 years ago tomorrow—his condition became critical. Instead of being treated in a hospital, he was taken to an isolation cell, chained to a bed, and beaten by eight prison guards for 1 hour and 18 minutes, which resulted in his death.

Sergei Magnitsky was 37 years old. He left behind a wife and two children. Those responsible for his abuse and murder have yet to be punished. And sadly, he is not alone. His story is emblematic of corruption, human rights abuses, and impunity in Russia.

Since the death of Sergei Magnitsky, the human rights situation inside the Russian Federation has continued to deteriorate.

Russia's parliamentary elections last December were marked by mass protests over alleged electoral fraud. Since Vladimir Putin was reelected president in May of 2012, his government has taken a harsh and confrontational approach to ongoing protests, cracking down on the Russian people's growing discontent with corruption and creeping authoritarianism. Russian authorities have used excessive force to break up peaceful demonstrations and detained and raided the homes of opposition leaders.

Russian civil society has also been a target of increasing repression. Beginning in June and with astonishing speed, the Russian Duma passed a series of draconian laws that restrict freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of assembly. Many observers fear that these laws will be used as a political weapon to stifle criticism of the government. They make it harder for Russian civil society to operate effectively and create a climate of fear and self-censorship. Civil society's sense of isolation is only compounded by the Russian Government's recent decision to expel organizations like USAID from the country.

□ 1240

In addition, journalists and human rights activists continue to face grave

dangers in pursuing their work. Just last month, Tanya Lokshina with the Moscow office of Human Rights Watch received a series of threats to herself and her unborn child, most likely in connection to her efforts to expose impunity for human rights abuses. Her experience is not unique. While Russian authorities have tried to silence critics, NGOs, and independent media, the world is still awaiting justice for many violent attacks on dissidents and journalists.

I would like to note for my colleagues that today at 2 p.m. the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission will be holding a hearing on human rights in the Russian Federation, and Ms. Lokshina will be one of the witnesses.

In this context, the story of Sergei Magnitsky remains especially important. At a time when the human rights situation in the country is going from bad to worse, it is all the more important to hold Russian human rights violators accountable.

Mr. Speaker, the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, which is title IV of H.R. 6156 as reported by the Rules Committee, places an asset freeze and visa ban on those individuals responsible for Sergei Magnitsky's torture and death, as well as on Russian officials engaged in corruption and gross violations of human rights. This is beyond just Sergei Magnitsky. These measures provide a degree of accountability and reinforce the administration's toolkit to respond to crimes by individual government officials.

Passage of the Magnitsky act sends a clear message to the Russian people that we support their fundamental human rights. Importantly, it also sends a strong message to those Russian officials who support the rule of law and who reject corruption and human rights abuses. It lets them know that their efforts and their achievements are valued by the United States and the international community. Only individuals within the Russian Government who abuse their office and engage in corruption and human rights crimes will find their assets and visas under scrutiny and subject to U.S. sanction.

So let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. I would not be supporting PNTR for the Russian Federation if it did not include title IV, the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act.

And, Mr. Speaker, let me just close by again thanking not only the gentleman from California, the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, but I want to thank the Republican leadership, the Speaker of the House; the Democratic leadership, the minority leader and our minority whip; as well as the chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee for working together to come up with an agreement here that I think deserves bipartisan support.

So I urge all my colleagues to support the Magnitsky act by voting for the underlying legislation, H.R. 6156, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me again express my appreciation to my good friend from Worcester, and it's been a great honor and privilege to work in a bipartisan way with him on this, as I've been privileged to work with many Democrats in this House on many different bipartisan issues over the years.

And I'm getting ready to leave this place, Mr. Speaker. I'll be in January, as you will, moving on to another life. For me, it's after nearly three-and-a-half decades, and we've got lots of work ahead in the next 4 weeks. To have this trade issue as one there is something that is very gratifying for me.

As I mention that I'm leaving, for his first speech since being named chairman of the Rules Committee for the next Congress, I'm very happy to yield such time as he may consume to the very thoughtful, dedicated, and hard-working gentleman from Dallas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that there are lots of hard workers in this House, and we all learned as kids there is a differentiation between a workhorse and a show horse. And I've got to tell you something, Mr. Speaker—and you know this very well—there is no Democrat or Republican in the United States House of Representatives who works any harder than PETE SESSIONS, and I'm very pleased, Mr. Speaker, that he is going to be succeeding me as chairman of the House Rules Committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, to my dear and distinguished friend, the gentleman, the young chairman of the Rules Committee, DAVID DREIER, thank you very much.

It is DAVID's leadership, not just in the Rules Committee but, I believe, to all of us here in the House of Representatives, that DAVID has led us to be a more open, thoughtful body; a person who used his time and position, power of the Rules Committee in the committee that's upstairs, to speak with all the Members of this body about their ideas that they represent and to make this a more open body. This institution is better because of DAVID DREIER. And I am very aware of what lies ahead for me, but, DAVID, you have done a great job, and thank you. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today really to support what Chairman DREIER and the gentleman, Mr. MCGOVERN, have been speaking for, and that is a rule and the underlying legislation.

There are over 23 million Americans right now looking for work that are either over- or underemployed in our country, Mr. Speaker. So today is a jobs bill, another jobs bill that is important, and permanent normalized trade relations with Russia and Moldova will provide that much-needed boost, just a little bit. But a boost to the direction of adding jobs and making sure that the jobs we have here in this country to provide goods and services to another country are on an equal basis is important.

This PNTR vote will mean that we're expected to double exports to Russia in just 5 years and to help create and strengthen jobs in this country while providing Russia with a great product at the right price, whether it's in manufacturing, agriculture, or the service industry. I believe this is an important bill for us to move on a bipartisan basis.

Russia is the ninth largest economy and has a population of about 142 million people. It has a large and growing middle class. And Russia holds outstanding potential for the United States, not just in the business interests, but also for goods and services to make the lives of the Russian people even better.

My home State of Texas is the top exporter to Russia among U.S. States, and Texas imports to Russia are growing faster than its exports for the rest of the world. Specifically, Texas exported $1.6 billion worth of goods to Russia in 2011. We, in Texas, value this relationship, the jobs, the exporting, and the ability to have better products and services in Russia, with the Russian people making those decisions to buy these products and services. This legislation today will only help us build on that success, growing not just more jobs, but, really, the American economy.

So I will say this on behalf of all of us. This is an important bill. We needed to work together. We need leadership of this body, all the Members, as well as the Senate and the President to make this happen.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SESSIONS. I will yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

And, Mr. Speaker, as I was sitting here listening to the very thoughtful remarks of my successor as chairman of the House Rules Committee, it reminded me of what really got him onto the Rules Committee and got him engaged with me, and interesting enough, Mr. Speaker, it was this issue. It was the issue of breaking down barriers to allow for the free flow of goods and services and capital.

When he first came to this body, Mr. Speaker, we were in the midst of our battle on China's accession to the World Trade Organization and establishing PNTR at that juncture, which has been a great thing; not that it's been problem free—I acknowledge that—but it's been a great thing to be able to take the steps that we have. And it was PETE SESSIONS, Mr. Speaker, who came to me and said, I want to help you with this. I actually gave him an assignment, and it was to talk to a half dozen Members about how important this was.

Mr. Speaker, in less than an hour he came back to me, having done the job right then, and that's why I describe

him as the person—as I say, there are a lot of hardworking people here, there are a lot of hardworking people on both sides of the aisle, but no one has been more diligent and worked harder than my friend PETE SESSIONS, and I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman.

And reclaiming my time, this is the kind of energy and leadership that DAVID DREIER expects from Members as he gives them not just tasks but opportunities, and the young chairman gave me that opportunity, and I took full advantage of that. As I recall, we were 10 out of 10. All of them voted for it. So I didn't just make up ''all of them.''

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill we're doing today. This is worthy of our time, and I'm delighted that we're joined by our friends.

□ 1250

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume first of all to thank the gentleman from Texas for his statement, but also to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate him on his new appointment. I look forward to working with him. So congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to again point out that trade bills oftentimes are very controversial. There's often a resistance to attach any additional language, whether it be human rights language or labor rights language, to trade bills. But in this case, again, working in a bipartisan way, I think the attachment of the Sergei Magnitsky bill to this trade bill is probably the most significant piece of human rights legislation attached to any trade bill since I've been here in Congress.

This is a big deal. This sends a message to human rights violators in Russia, those who are guilty of corruption, that there's a consequence. And even if that consequence is not bringing you to justice within Russia, the United States—and we will be joined, hopefully, by our allies—will make sure that there are visa bans that are put in place and that assets are frozen, that there is a consequence. Again, our hope is that this language will prop up those in Russia who want to push for reform, who believe in accountability and believe in tackling issues like impunity.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd like to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), who is the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, who was incredibly helpful to me in making sure that these two pieces of legislation were brought together and I think in a way that makes it possible for me to be able to support this bill.

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. First, if I might, let me congratulate Mr. DREIER on your service of many years. You believe in this institution.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEVIN. I will yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DREIER. When you said ''many years,'' you are my junior colleague by one term.

I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. LEVIN. You believe in this institution, and I think that's been reflected.

So let me just say a few words—we'll debate it, perhaps, longer tomorrow—why this trade bill should be passed. I think we need to take each trade bill on its own merits. When you look at the need to move here today to grant PNTR, I think the answer is we clearly should.

First of all, Russia is now in the WTO, and it has gone in with certain requirements; for example, no export subsidies are allowed. That's a change, and that's beneficial to those of us who want to trade with them so they don't rig the deck against us and for them. And there are major reductions in tariffs.

Also, now that they're in the WTO, there is a dispute settlement system. So when they violate the requirements, there's a dispute settlement system that can be enforced. If we don't grant PNTR, we can't access that dispute settlement system.

Also, it's so important that there be strong enforcement. A number of my colleagues put forth some legislation that proposed that we beef up the enforcement provisions within this bill, and that's been done. Our staff on the Democratic side worked assiduously with the Senate, and the essence of those provisions are now in this bill. So that's another reason to vote for it, because strong enforcement is critical to good trade legislation.

Also, I would urge everybody to look at what are the exports from this country and the imports from Russia. When you look at those, it's a good reason for us to vote for this legislation, because the top three exports from the U.S. are machinery, motor vehicles, and aircraft—made in America by American workers. And so, in a sense, this is a ''Make It in America'' piece of legislation.

The dominant import from Russia is in petro, in oil, and in that sense, they're not directly competing with our workers. So we have, in terms of what flows, an advantage being a full partner.

But let me say one other thing, because I think those of you who have followed this know I don't believe that trade legislation is only about flow of goods. It also has to be embedded in a structure to make sure that there are benefits for our companies and for our workers and that there is a structure to try to make sure there's a rule of law, because if there isn't a rule of law in another country, it is not beneficial for their citizens or for our companies.

So here I want us to pay attention to the Magnitsky legislation, because no one should think that it's easy to do business in any country where there isn't a rule of law. It isn't easy to do business—and we should hesitate to simply blindly do business—with a country which really imposes restrictions on the rights of their citizens. That's what Mr. MCGOVERN has done and what Mr. CARDIN and others have done. And there has been bipartisan cooperation on this point, strong bipartisan cooperation, to place in this bill the Magnitsky legislation that sends a clear signal to the Russian Government and to everybody in Russia that we care about the rights of the citizens there, and as we do business, we care about the rights of others. That's the strength of this legislation, in addition to opening their markets for goods made in America

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. LEVIN. So I really urge that everybody look at this legislation on its own merits. Whatever the feelings are about other trade agreements, we need to take each of them on their own, the pluses and the minuses. In this case, I think—especially now that Russia is in the WTO—it works so much to our advantage in terms of the economy here, in terms of jobs here, in terms of our businesses and our workers. And also, I think we can vote for this legislation, if I might say so, with good conscience.

Mr. MCGOVERN, you have led. It's a tribute to your devotion to the human rights of people as we advance trade not only in this legislation, but in other legislation. I think it's also a recognition of our ability to work together.

So I urge passage, and tomorrow we speak together to urge passage of the legislation.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Mr. LEVIN, for his very thoughtful comments and to say I was very pleased to join with Mr. MCGOVERN—as Mr. MCGOVERN has mentioned and as I did earlier—a joint Dear Colleague to focus on the benefits of this legislation as we tackle this important challenge of human rights.

I happen to believe very fervently that economic liberalization is a key part of ensuring the ability of human rights to be recognized. That's why I think this legislation is very, very complementary in addressing not just job creation, economic growth, and improving quality of life for people, but I believe both aspects—the Magnitsky aspect and the permanent normal trade relations—together work to enhance the human rights situation that is as devastating as it is.

Mr. Speaker, I know I have talked about a number of other Members, but I'd like to say that for nearly a decade and a half I've been very privileged to work on a wide range of issues, but one of the most important has been the issue of trade liberalization with my friend from Hinsdale, Illinois. She is

going to be leaving this institution, as you, Mr. Speaker, are and as I will as well. But I've got to say that this institution is a better place. The issue of ensuring economic opportunity here in the United States and around the world is brighter for the work that has been done by JUDY BIGGERT. I'm happy to yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), Mr. Speaker.

□ 1300

Mrs. BIGGERT. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, for your kind words, but also for what you have done for this country as far as trade and how you have really worked so hard to make sure that all of the Members of Congress realize the impact that trade has for our economy and for our place in the world. Either bilateral agreements, multilateral commitments, you were always there to make to sure that we moved forward on that, and I really thank you.

I do rise in support today of this rule and H.R. 6156, to grant permanent normal trade relations to Russia. This important legislation is a small step toward a big reward. Without it, the United States exporters and service providers will continue to lose business to our foreign competitors that already have trade relationships with Russia. And once we lose those markets, our competitors will only become stronger and better-positioned to surpass the U.S. in a critical marketplace of the 21st-century global economy.

According to the National Association of Manufacturers, Russia imported over $500 billion in goods last year; and of that total, only 5 percent came from U.S. exports.

This bill will lift outdated policies that restrict American access to Russian markets. As a result, studies show that U.S. producers can expect to achieve double-digit increases over the next decade in exports of heavy machinery, agricultural machinery, chemicals and services. This is particularly critical for my home State of Illinois, where we have fallen behind Japan and Korea in these export categories.

Most importantly, granting Russia permanent normal trade relations gives the U.S. a level playing field on which we can compete from a position of strength in terms of intellectual property and agricultural exports, and it will provide a reliable forum for trade dispute resolution.

I would urge my colleagues to vote for the rule and the bill, to grow American exports and create good jobs here in the United States by supporting this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. I want to thank the gentleman for his great work on this legislation; and also my colleague, who will be leaving us, the chairman of the Rules Committee, who's done some great work over his many years.

I rise in support of this legislation. I think it is important to see, as this continuum moves, our relationship with Russia change and now moving into a circumstance of additional trade and enhanced trade.

I'm one that's very focused on improving manufacturing here in the United States, and this is going to open up tremendous opportunities for our manufacturers. So I want to commend those who've worked together on this and the Obama administration for their continuing efforts to open up trade opportunities so that we can make it here and sell it everywhere, which I think should be our focus.

In addition to that, I think it shows how, over time, old wounds can be healed and new relationships can be built.

I spoke earlier today with the consulate general for the State of Israel in Philadelphia, offering my support and concern for the unfortunate circumstances that are taking place in the Middle East now, in which hundreds of bombs or rockets have been shot at Israel, some of its largest cities as the targets. This is a matter for obviously much higher levels in our government. There have been communications and the assurance that Israel has the right to defend itself.

But I think that we can see in this Russia trade agreement that if we can get to the point where there can be relationships that are built on self-interest and economic development, that we can put the weapons aside and move toward a circumstance in which people are focused on economic activity.

So we see in this crisis a circumstance that we hope will resolve itself. Obviously, we stand with our ally, but we also hope for a day in which peace will reign, and economic opportunities, I agree with DAVID DREIER, really is the way in which eventually we can create a circumstance in which people will not have the necessity to resort to violence.

So I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time, and I thank the House. And I hope that we will favorably pass this bill.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I will be glad to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DREIER. I just wanted to express to my very dear friend from Philadelphia, express my appreciation, Mr. Speaker, for his very kind words and to say that the recognition that economic liberalization is one of the greatest keys to our goal of enhancing human rights, the standard of living, and the quality of life for our fellow human beings is a very, very important point; and I just want to underscore that point that was made.

Yes, the Magnitsky legislation is important, but I'm going to talk in just a moment about what some leaders in Russia have had to say specifically about PNTR and its impact on human rights.

I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, with that I'm very happy to yield 3 minutes to my very good friend from Huntington Beach, my fellow Californian, Mr. ROHRABACHER. And pending that, let me say that he and I have been great friends since he was a speech writer for Ronald Reagan. We've worked closely on a wide range of things. And I just told him, Mr. Speaker, since I'm leaving Congress, he's taught me one thing and one thing only and that is how to make margaritas.

So with that, I'm happy to yield to my friend, Mr. ROHRABACHER.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I rise in support of the rule and of this legislation, and note that the classified nature of that margarita formula should never be disclosed to an enemy of the United States, of course; but we will be glad to transmit that information to colleagues on the other side of the aisle in a spirit of bipartisanship.

I do rise in support of this rule and H.R. 6156, the legislation to grant permanent normal trade relations status to Russia.

During the 1980s, as it was just mentioned, I worked for Ronald Reagan in the White House and was part of a team dedicating ourselves to bringing down the Soviet dictatorship. I might add that Dave Dreier was an ex officio member of that team.

Today's Russia is not yesterday's Soviet Union. That's the most important message. Over 20 years of reform have created an imperfect country, yes, but also a new Russia with a relative free press and churches that were once closed by the Communists which are now filled with those who would gather to worship God.

Many here in the United States have not appreciated the dramatic change and continue to view Russia as if it were the Soviet Union 30 years ago.

Well, what we do today is long overdue. Our protracted refusal to grant Russia permanent normal trade relation status has been counterproductive and hypocritical. Counterproductive for years because it's been an unnecessary barrier to better bilateral relations between our two countries. Hypocritical because over a decade ago we had rushed to give most favored nation status to Communist China, which still continues to be the world's worst human rights abuser.

All the arguments made to refuse it to Russia have always applied one hundredfold to Communist China. However, I have not heard the critics of this bill calling for an end to our trade status with Communist China, which I might add, human rights in China is worse today than when we granted most favored nation status to them.

If we want to have a real debate about trade, the place to start is with Communist China and not be looking at a democratic Russia. PNTR for

China has cost millions and millions of jobs over the decade. Our trade relations with Russia will benefit both of us, both the people of the United States, as well as the Russian people.

So how then can we justify such a pro-Communist China policy, which has had no political reform, and not giving it to Russia, which has had dramatic political reform?

Two decades ago, while I was working in the White House, I was arguably one of the Soviet Union's worse enemies. But my boss, Ronald Reagan, never wanted the people of Russia and the people of the United States to be enemies. He envisioned, once the Communist Party had been discarded, that our two peoples would one day be friends and trading partners and, yes, even allies.

Russian society has moved far from the Cold War. It is past time that we do the same. We need to reach out to them, stand together against an alarming rise of power in Communist China and against radical Islamic terror, which targets Russians as well as Americans.

Thus, I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting and pass this legislation.

□ 1310

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I thank my colleague from Massachusetts. I also want to praise my colleague from California. This is one of the last rules Mr. DREIER will be managing here on the floor.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I'd like to ask my friend if he has looked at the schedule that we have for the next 4 weeks. I think it's light years away until I deal with the last rule here if you look at our legislative schedule. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. When it comes to the fiscal cliff, I actually hope you're right. I hope you will be so busy that you will have no time to think of anything else. But I do want to congratulate you on this rule and on your tenure here in the House. You will be missed.

The Jackson-Vanik amendment, Mr. Speaker, was a product of the Cold War when the Communist threat was ever-present and when Communist countries had little or no emigration rights. As our friend from California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, just said, we need to recognize that today's Russia, while hardly a perfect place when it comes to human rights and political expression, is not the Soviet Union. We need a positive framework—economic, political, social—to move forward.

This PNTR, normalizing trade relations, allows us to wrangle with Russia when we think they're wrong in trade disputes at the World Trade Organization. Absent this normalization, we don't have that leverage. Furthermore, the committee needs to be really commended, as does my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), for creating a statutory framework for addressing one of the most egregious human rights violations in modern Russian history. It involves Sergei Magnitsky.

Now, this framework could ultimately be a model, frankly, as we move forward in other parts of the world as well, but it certainly marries a positive trade relationship possibility with vigilant and vigorous human rights enforcement and vigilance. So I commend the committee for marrying the two, for allowing us positively to go forward in our relationship—troubles and all—with modern-day Russia. I urge the passage of the underlying legislation, H.R. 6156.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, I have no further requests for time. If the gentleman would like to close, I will then offer some closing remarks.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert two articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—one of The New York Times, entitled, ''Russia plans to retry dead lawyer in tax case,'' and the other from The Washington Post, entitled, ''The Kremlin's blacklist.''

Mr. Speaker, from the beginning, the Magnitsky Act has been a bipartisan and bicameral effort. The final Magnitsky language in title IV of H.R. 6156 is the result of genuine collaboration and compromise. I want to again thank the chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr. DREIER. I would like to thank Speaker BOEHNER, Majority Leader CANTOR, Majority Whip MCCARTHY, Democratic Leader PELOSI, Democratic Whip HOYER, House Foreign Affairs Committee chairwoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and our ranking member, Mr. BERMAN of California, as well as Mr. LEVIN, who has been so very helpful on the Ways and Means Committee, for all of their support in drafting the bill under consideration by the House this week. It has been a pleasure to work with all of these individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the Magnitsky provisions are strong, flexible enough to be well implemented and will allow us to have a cooperative relationship with Russia on trade and other issues while holding human rights violators accountable, including those responsible for the brutal treatment and death of Sergei Magnitsky. As I stated earlier, I would not be supporting PNTR for the Russian Federation if this bill did not include a Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act.

I agree with what has been said about the importance of increased trade in terms of promoting more positive reforms in countries like Russia, but there is always a problem when you have a country that doesn't abide by the rule of law, where impunity rules the day. In cases like that, I think it is important to have a tool like the Magnitsky legislation to make it clear to those in Russia—not just those involved with the Sergei Magnitsky tragedy, but with other terrible human rights crimes, those who are involved in corruption—to make it clear to them that there is a consequence and that, even if within their own countries they are not brought to justice, the world will know who they are and take appropriate action. There will be visa bans, and we will go after their assets. To me, this is a very, very powerful tool that complements the benefits of PNTR for Russia.

I would say to my colleagues that this does represent a genuine compromise—the Sergei Magnitsky Act, which I am the author of in the House and Senator CARDIN is the author of in the Senate. In the House, we originally wanted this to be global in its approach, but in the spirit of compromise, it has been narrowed down to Russia. I think, if this proves to be a good tool and if it is implemented properly, hopefully, we can broaden it, because I do think that it is important for the United States to make it clear to the world that, if we stand for anything, we stand out loud and foursquare for human rights.

With regard to the rule, I just want to say that I'm a little bit disappointed that this rule on a bipartisan bill includes lockdown provisions that restrict the rights of the minority in this body. I would have preferred that this rule have only included procedures for the bipartisan PNTR-Magnitsky bill, but in the spirit of bipartisanship, I'm not going to dwell on that. I'm just going to point it out for the record.

In conclusion, let me just make this one observation. This is an example of bipartisanship, of people coming together and of our supporting an important piece of legislation. I hope that some of this rubs off on some of the bills that we're going to be considering in the days and weeks to come, but this really is how this House of Representatives should be run.

Again, my compliments to the leadership of the Republican Party and to the leadership of my own party. It was not just gratuitous. I meant it. This was a process by which those of us who care about the issue of human rights felt that we were included. As a result, I think we've come up with a bill that deserves support. I think it will make a positive difference in the lives of a lot of people in Russia. In terms of trade, I think it will result in a situation where there is a more level playing field, where we have an agreement that just doesn't benefit the few at the expense of the many; we may have an agreement here that will help benefit the many.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 7, 2012]

RUSSIA PLANS TO RETRY DEAD LAWYER IN TAX CASE

(By Andrew E. Kramer)

MOSCOW.—The police in Russia plan to resubmit for trial a tax evasion case in which the primary defendant died in detention more than two years ago, his former employer said Tuesday.

The trial of the defendant, Sergei L. Magnitsky, would be the first posthumous prosecution in Russian legal history, according to a statement by the former employer, Hermitage Capital.

The death of Mr. Magnitsky, a lawyer, in November 2009 drew international criticism over Russia's human rights record, especially after accusations arose that he had been denied proper medical care. The State Department has barred officials linked to Mr. Magnitsky's prosecutions from entering the United States. Parliaments in nine European countries are considering similar bans.

Police officials reopened the case against Mr. Magnitsky last summer, saying it would provide a chance for relatives and supporters to clear his name.

Relatives, though, said they had not asked for that, and executives at Hermitage said the motive was something else entirely: to vindicate the officials Mr. Magnitsky had accused of corruption.

Hermitage Capital's executive director, William F. Browder, who lives in London, will be a co-defendant in the case; he will be tried in absentia, a procedure used only intermittently in the post-Soviet period but restored under a Russian law that took effect in 2006.

The statement from Hermitage said that even in the Soviet period, no defendant had been tried after death. But a Russian Supreme Court ruling last summer allowed the police to conduct posthumous investigations.

Calls to the press service of the Investigative Committee of the Interior Ministry, which is handling the case, were not answered on Tuesday.

Mr. Browder maintains that the posthumous case against Mr. Magnitsky, who died in pretrial detention when he was 37, is intended to intimidate his family and discourage them from pressing for the prosecution of the police and tax officials who they say orchestrated his imprisonment. A conviction of Mr. Magnitsky might also appear to vindicate the officials he had accused of wrongdoing.

The Hermitage statement said a police investigator had offered to drop the case in a letter to Mr. Magnitsky's mother last week, but only if relatives stated that they had no "desire to protect the honor and dignity of the deceased."

Mr. Browder said in the statement, "If the Russian Interior Ministry thinks that running a show trial against me and Sergei will stop our campaign for justice, they are dead wrong."

Mr. Magnitsky was detained in 2008 on suspicion of helping Hermitage Capital evade $17.4 million in taxes. That accusation came after Mr. Magnitsky testified against Interior Ministry officials, saying they had used Hermitage companies to embezzle $230 million from the Russian Treasury by filing false corporate tax returns.

Mr. Magnitsky's supporters say they believe that the prosecution was retaliatory, and that investigators assigned to his case, including individuals he had accused, denied him medical care before his death.

[From the Washington Post, July 26, 2012]

THE KREMLIN'S BLACKLIST

(By Vladimir V. Kara-Murza)

On July 12, as I stopped at the gate of the Russian Embassy compound in northwest Washington, the on-duty officer had some unexpected news. "I cannot let you in," he said through an intercom. "You are forbidden to enter the embassy." Being a Russian citizen and a credentialed Russian journalist, and having been to my country's embassy on numerous occasions, I was naturally curious. Yevgeny Khorishko, the embassy's press secretary, whom I called for an explanation, was brief: The directive to "strike" my name from the list of credentialed Russian journalists came from Ambassador Sergei Kislyak. No reason was given. In an interview later with Slon.ru, a Moscow news Web site, the press secretary explained that the decision reflected the fact that I am "no longer a journalist."

The explanation would seem passable, except for one detail: The ambassador's directive came before it was publicly announced that I had been dismissed as Washington bureau chief of RTVi, as Russian Television International is known, effective Sept. 1. How Kislyak could have known this in advance remains a mystery.

Around the same time, two trustworthy sources in Moscow informed me that my name has been placed on a "blacklist," making me unemployable not only by RTVi but also by other, even privately owned, Russian media outlets. This was quickly verified, as one editor after another indicated that cooperation at this stage is impossible. From his own sources, opposition leader and former deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov found out the name of the Kremlin official who has supposedly blacklisted me: Alexei Gromov, President Vladimir Putin's first deputy chief of staff. As for the reason for the Berufsverbot, my interlocutors were unequivocal: It was my advocacy for the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, currently being considered by the U.S. Congress.

This bill, a rare example of congressional bipartisanship, proposes to introduce a targeted visa ban and asset freeze for Russian officials "responsible for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky"—an anticorruption lawyer tortured to death in a Moscow prison in 2009—as well as for any "extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights" (among them, "the freedoms of religion, expression, association, and assembly, and the rights to a fair trial and democratic elections"). The Magnitsky Act would bring a much-needed measure of accountability to corrupt Russian officials and human rights violators who prefer to rule in the manner of Zimbabwe or Belarus but opt for such destinations as the United States or Britain when it comes to storing and spending their ill-gotten gains.

Along with many other representatives of Russia's civil society, political opposition and independent media, I have been a vocal supporter of the legislation, urging its passage in public speeches and in private meetings with Washington policymakers. In authoritarian systems that maintain their power by stifling free initiative and free speech, the line between journalism and civic activism is not—and cannot be—as rigid as it is in democratic societies. Colleagues have long warned that my support for the bill would, sooner or later, catch the Kremlin's attention. The timing is not surprising, as the bill is nearing passage.

My case is just one in a series of "retaliatory" measures Putin's regime has taken against Russian supporters of the Magnitsky legislation. Other examples include the recent early-morning raids on the homes of opposition leaders and a series of new repressive laws directed against Russia's already-besieged civil society, including the 150-fold increase in fines for "violations" at public rallies and the requirement that Russian nongovernmental organizations that receive funding from abroad be tagged as "foreign agents." That the targets of retaliation are Russian is hardly surprising: A "reciprocal" visa ban for U.S. sponsors of the Magnitsky Act would have drawn only laughter. Officials in Moscow had long promised that the response to the bill would be "asymmetrical."

The Kremlin's blackmail must not be allowed to succeed. The hysterical reaction from Putin's regime shows beyond doubt that the legislation hits precisely where it hurts. The prospect of losing access to the West and its financial systems (initiatives similar to the U.S. bill are already being considered in European Union parliaments and in Canada) may well be, for now, the only serious disincentive to corruption and human rights violations by Russian officials. Symbolically, the adoption of the Magnitsky Act has been tied to the repeal of the antiquated Jackson-Vanik Amendment, thus replacing trade sanctions against a nation with personal sanctions against specific criminals. Perhaps the most pro-Russian piece of legislation ever put before the U.S. Congress, the Magnitsky Act offers Washington an opportunity to speak with a unified voice and with unquestioned moral clarity. I hope that it will be signed into law before the end of the year.

Mr. DREIER. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me offer some closing remarks and say that, as I reminisce, having spent virtually my entire adult life as a Member of this body, privileged to stand in this well for nearly three-and-a-half decades—making arguments, engaging in debate—as I said, I'm very gratified that we were able to work on one of the many final issues, which is the first issue of the lame duck session, in a bipartisan way as my friend from Worcester just said. I was privileged to work with him and to have him as a cosigner of this Dear Colleague letter that we sent out in support of this legislation.

I am reminded, in having listened to remarks from both sides of the aisle—my California colleague (Mr. ROHRABACHER) and others—that on the 6th of November 1979, Ronald Reagan announced his candidacy for President of the United States. He offered lots of eloquence and lots of brilliance, but he said something that at the time was seen as absolute heresy, not only here in the United States but around the world and within this hemisphere.

On the 6th of November 1979, Reagan envisaged this notion of eliminating tariff barriers among all of the Americas so that we could have the free flow of goods and services and capital and ideas, and yes, people as well. That's aspirational. That's a notion that he put forward. A few years later in the Congress, I was privileged to be elected the day Ronald Reagan was elected President. I joined with my colleagues Mr. Colby and Mr. Lewis, and introduced legislation calling for the elimination of tariff barriers among Canada, the United States, and Mexico, which led to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

□ 1320

Mr. Speaker, the idea behind this diminution—in fact, elimination—of tariff and nontariff barriers is so we can enhance freedom, enhance opportunity, and improve the quality of life and the standard of living for people not only here in the United States, but around the world, as well. We understand that even in repressive societies, that if we can proceed with economic liberalization, political liberalization will follow.

I have to counter the statement that was made by my California colleague, Mr. ROHRABACHER, about China. I am not going to stand here on the day that Xi Jinping has become the new leader of China and claim that things are perfect in China, but I will argue that permanent normal trade relations and China's accession to the World Trade Organization has been beneficial. Why? Because if one looks at the great leap forward in China, there were tens of millions of people who were killed. During the cultural revolution, well over a million people were starved to death.

So you look at the great leap forward, you look at the cultural revolution in China, and you look today at the horrendous human rights violations that exist in China, and my goal is still to see us move towards political pluralism, the development of democratic institutions, a greater sense of the rule of law. But there are a few thousand political prisoners in China. It's horrible. It's not acceptable. But, Mr. Speaker, I argue that that is progress.

It was 10 years ago that I was very privileged to work with President Clinton in seeing China's accession to the World Trade Organization and permanent normal trade relations established. We were able to do that right here in a bipartisan way, and things are better than they were. They're not great; they're not acceptable; but, Mr. Speaker, they are better than they were.

I know there are some who—and Mr. ROHRABACHER thoughtfully did point to the fact that Russia is obviously not what it was like under the Soviet Union. I mean, we can all think back to the refuseniks. I remember adopting refuseniks, Jews who were unable to emigrate from Russia. You think about all of the military expenses that were involved throughout the Cold War, stories—I just came back from Georgia and the Ukraine, overseeing their elections, having been throughout Eastern Europe and Central Europe and heard stories about the kind of repression that existed. As bad as Russia is today, it's still a marked improvement over what existed during the Cold War and the time of the Soviet Union.

A lot of us held out a great deal of hope for Russia, more so than we have right now, just a few years ago, and because we've seen backward steps. I've talked about my friend Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who, at this moment, is languishing in a Russian prison for simply criticizing Vladimir Putin. I'm here today in large part because I want Mikhail Khodorkovsky to be freed. I want to see an end to that kind of treatment of individuals.

Similarly, tomorrow marks the third anniversary of the tragic death of Sergei Magnitsky. It was absolutely horrible that this 37-year-old lawyer, a young man with, as my friend pointed out, a wife and small children, was imprisoned for simply being a whistleblower. He was tortured, abused, and left to die 3 years ago tomorrow. Again, in the 21st century, that is intolerable. It can't be accepted. That's why we need to continue to pursue this effort on economic liberalization.

I'm not going to counter what my friend said about the importance of the Magnitsky component to this legislation, but I would like to share the words of some formerly incarcerated Russians, some of whom were incarcerated human rights leaders in Russia who long before we did the Magnitsky language talked about how important this is. Let me just read a bit of this letter that is signed by seven human rights activists. It goes down the line of these Russians who have been opposition leaders in the forefront.

Before we did this, understanding how important PNTR and China's accession to the WTO would be, they said:

> The persistence on the books of the Jackson-Vanik amendment does not help to solve the problems with democracy and human rights in modern Russia at all. Moreover, it brings direct harm. This helps Mr. Putin and his cronies.

He is basically saying that repeal of Jackson-Vanik is something that is going to help undermine Putin and his cronies.

They go on to say:

> Those who defend the argument that Jackson-Vanik's provisions should still apply to Russia in order to punish Putin's antidemocratic regime only darken Russia's political future, hamper its economic development, and frustrate its democratic aspirations.
>
> We, leading figures of the Russian political opposition, strongly stand behind the efforts to remove Russia from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment.

This is exactly what this measure has done before.

While I'm gratified that we've been able, in a bipartisan way to include Magnitsky, there is recognition that simply repeal of Jackson-Vanik would go a long way towards undermining the political repression that exists in Russia today.

Mr. Speaker, I also have to say on this overall issue of trade, thanks are being spread around. I want to express my appreciation to my very good friends and colleagues, DAVE CAMP, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and KEVIN BRADY, who chairs the Trade Subcommittee. I've worked with them for many years on the important issue of trade liberalization and in our pursuit of ensuring that we can create good American jobs, union and nonunion jobs, by opening up these markets.

I also have to say that I know people like to malign the 87 newly elected Republican Members, this Tea Party class of crazy people. You read that. You hear that in the media on a regular basis. Frankly, I have to say, Mr. Speaker, the leadership that they have shown on this issue and on the issues of Colombia, Panama, and South Korea are very important issues. Mr. Speaker, let me just say that I express my appreciation to the fact that 73 of them signed a letter to the President saying that this needed to be brought forward. We want to work in a bipartisan way to make this happen.

I urge support of this rule, and then tomorrow when we have the vote on PNTR, a strong bipartisan support in behalf of the efforts of Messrs. CAMP and LEVIN and BRADY and others.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1705

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) at 5 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6156, RUSSIA AND MOLDOVA JACKSON-VANIK REPEAL AND SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 808) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6156) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of the Russian Federation and Moldova and to require reports on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes,

on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of House Resolution 808, if ordered, and suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2453.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 243, nays 164, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 605]

YEAS—243

Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Costa
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
DeGette
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kelly
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—164

Ackerman
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barber
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Curson (MI)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Farr
Fattah
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—25

Akin
Bartlett
Boren
Buchanan
Filner
Forbes
Gallegly
Grijalva
Grimm
Heinrich
Holt
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Lewis (GA)
Manzullo
Meeks
Miller, George
Pence
Rothman (NJ)
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Shuler
Towns
Woolsey
Yarmuth

□ 1729

Messrs. CUELLAR, GARAMENDI, SMITH of Washington, LARSON of Connecticut, ISRAEL, JONES, MURPHY of Connecticut, CLAY and CARNEY, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 605, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 8, 2012.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a scanned copy of a letter received from The Honorable Kimberly M. Guadagno, Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of State, State of New Jersey, indicating that, according to the unofficial returns of the Special Election held November 6, 2012, the Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr. was elected Representative to Congress for the Tenth Congressional District, State of New Jersey.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

Enclosure.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Trenton, NJ, November 8, 2012.

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk, House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. HAAS: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, for Representative in Congress from the Tenth Congressional District of New Jersey, show that Donald M. Payne, Jr. received 141,714 of the total number of voters cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Donald M. Payne, Jr. was elected as Representative in Congress from the Tenth Congressional District of New Jersey.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified, to this office by the Essex, Hudson and Union County Clerks involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

KIMBERLY M. GUADAGNO,
Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of State.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE, JR., OF NEW JERSEY, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New Jersey, the Honorable DONALD M. PAYNE, Jr., be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will Representative-elect PAYNE and the members of the New Jersey delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. PAYNE appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 112th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE, JR., TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say how happy I am, and the New Jersey delegation, and what a privilege it is to welcome DON PAYNE to the U.S. House of Representatives, a Member from the 10th Congressional District.

DON is a former city councilman where he served in Newark as president of that council, a county freeholder. And of course he takes over after the very tragic passing of his dad, Don Payne, who all of us have worked with over the years. I personally, as chairman of the Africa Committee, Don before me, we worked side by side on issues related to Africa. Again, I will be very brief, but he takes over, of course, after the tragic passing of Don Payne, who all of us loved, admired and respected.

I sat next to Don for years on the Foreign Affairs Committee. He was the chairman of Africa, I chaired it and do so today; and we worked side by side on malaria and a whole host of other very important issues relevant to the health and well-being of the people of Africa, global health, and human rights. So, DON, you have very big shoes to fill. I'm sure you'll do it, and it is a great pleasure.

Members should know DON has been an activist on a number of issues, including Embracing Arms. He works very strongly on job creation in Newark, which has been very hard hit by the recession. So it's great to welcome you, DON. And, again, I look forward to serving with you in this Congress and the next.

I yield to my friend and colleague, FRANK PALLONE.

Mr. PALLONE. I want to thank my colleague for those remarks. And just very briefly, if I can say as a senior Member of the Democrats, DON, Jr. has excelled in his own right. As was mentioned, he's been a councilman in the city of Newark for a while. He has also been a county freeholder in Essex County, New Jersey. And I could go through the long list of accomplishments that he's made himself for the city of Newark and the other towns that he now represents in the congressional district.

But I do have to say your father would be so proud. He's looking down today. And you must know, for all of you who loved his dad so much, that he is very much like his father in every respect in that he respects everyone. He has the sympathy—your father always talked about simpatico, the Italian sympathy, because he grew up in the Italian section of Newark, and that's something that's shared very much by DON as well. He will be someone that you will all learn to love the way you learned to love his father.

Congratulations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

□ 1740

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to be a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and to represent the people of the 10th Congressional District of the State of New Jersey.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my wife, Beatrice, for being here, my three children, who did not come, my triplet children, who were the apple of my father's eye, Donald III, Jack, and Yvonne, for always supporting me and encouraging me. I could not have done this without you.

I also want to thank my uncle, the former assemblyman William Payne, who gave my father his undying love, guidance, and strong support his entire life. Without his encouragement, I would not be standing here today.

Our Nation faces many challenges, both at home and abroad, but the most immediate concern for all of us is to help New Jersey recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy. You have my word that I will continue to work every day to ensure that the 10th Congressional District of the State of New Jersey and the entire State receives all the Federal support we need until we reach full recovery.

Nearly 2 years ago, my father was sworn into his 11th and final term in Congress. I look forward to continuing to build on his legacy and serving the people of the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey, the Nation, and the world. And finally, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

For those of you that knew my father, I'd just like to end, and it'll probably be the last time I mention it. As I went through the campaign and was successful in my candidacy, after the campaign I had time to reflect on what all of this meant to me, and I realized that there were many parallels in our lives, and I'll just end with this.

When my father was 8 years old, his mother died. My mother died when I was 4. He was first elected an Essex County freeholder. That was my first elected office. He then went on to the Newark Municipal Council in the city of Newark. That was my next elected office.

He won his first time in Congress in the middle of his second term as a Newark municipal councilman. I'm in the middle of my second term as a Newark municipal councilman.

And when he was sworn into Congress he was 54 years old. When I'm sworn in for the 113th Congress I will be 54 years old. We will both be fortunate and privileged to serve in the 112th Congress, and we have both been privileged to serve with President Obama.

When his father died he was 77 years old, and he died on March 6. My father was 77 years old, and he died on March 6. So God has a plan for your life. And I think if I am half the man he was and the public servant, I'll consider myself a success.

Thank you very much.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from New Jersey, the whole number of the House is 434.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6156, RUSSIA AND MOLDOVA JACKSON-VANIK REPEAL AND SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution, H. Res. 808.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 253, noes 150, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 606]

AYES—253

Adams	Bishop (UT)	Campbell
Aderholt	Black	Canseco
Alexander	Blackburn	Cantor
Amash	Blumenauer	Capito
Amodei	Bonner	Carney
Austria	Bono Mack	Carter
Bachmann	Boustany	Cassidy
Bachus	Brady (TX)	Chabot
Barletta	Brooks	Chaffetz
Barton (TX)	Broun (GA)	Coble
Bass (NH)	Brown (FL)	Coffman (CO)
Benishek	Bucshon	Cole
Berg	Buerkle	Conaway
Berman	Burgess	Connolly (VA)
Biggert	Burton (IN)	Cooper
Bilbray	Calvert	Costa
Bilirakis	Camp	Cravaack

Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Culberson
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farenthold
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kelly
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOES—150

Ackerman
Altmire
Baca
Baldwin
Barber
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bonamici
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Courtney
Critz
Cuellar
Cummings
Curson (MI)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Farr
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McNerney
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Moore
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—30

Akin
Andrews
Bartlett
Boren
Buchanan
Costello
DeGette
Filner
Forbes
Frank (MA)
Gallegly
Grijalva
Grimm
Heinrich
Holt
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Manzullo
Meeks
Miller, George
Pence
Rothman (NJ)
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Towns
Woolsey
Yarmuth

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1750

Mr. CROWLEY changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 606, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF HURRICANE SANDY

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Thank you to all of my colleagues from the Northeast who stand with us today. I want to particularly thank my colleague from New York (Mr. TURNER) for helping to arrange this bipartisan moment of support and to demonstrate to our country how we should all come together at a time of crisis.

This storm, known as Sandy, was utterly devastating, not only to property and to homes but to families, communities and neighborhoods—entire neighborhoods. Our hearts are with those in places like City Island, Edgewater and Locust Point, which is in my district in the Bronx, for those in lower Manhattan, Staten Island, Hoboken, coastal New Jersey, Fairfield County, parts of Philadelphia, and other parts that were affected by this horrific storm.

For many, recovery has already begun; but as they begin to piece their lives and their communities back together, they need a united Congress behind that effort. For others, the rebuilding has not yet begun as they still wait more than 2 weeks for power and fuel to be restored to them. For far too many, we grieve at the ultimate loss—precious men, women and, yes, children who are no longer with us as a result of this storm.

Lastly, we must acknowledge the constant heartfelt support from all of our public servants, including all the firefighters and volunteer fire departments, the police departments, the National Guard, FEMA, and particularly our sanitation workers, who are cleaning the mounds of sand and debris from people's homes. We continue to learn of incredible heroic acts that are moving but that are in keeping with the best of America's traditions.

I also want to point out that my mother's hometown of Rockaway Beach was devastated by this storm and, particularly, a community known as Breezy Point, where our good friend and our colleague BOB TURNER lost his entire home. It burned to the ground.

Please join me in keeping all of those we have lost in your thoughts and prayers, and remember them in the weeks and the months ahead as they begin to rebuild their lives.

I now yield to my colleague, my friend from New York, BOB TURNER.

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize those who lost their homes, livelihoods and, most tragically, their lives during the most devastating storm ever to hit the Northeast. For the heroic efforts of New York's police, fire department and sanitation workers, who were on the scene immediately, forsaking their own personal interests and safety, and for all of those affected by the hurricane, I ask that the House stand and engage in a moment of silence.

MARK TWAIN COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2453) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Mark Twain, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 370, nays 19, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 607]

YEAS—370

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Amodei
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barber
Barletta
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curson (MI)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Garamendi
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Honda
Hoyer
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—19

Amash
Blackburn
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Flores
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Graves (GA)
Huelskamp
Kucinich
Massie
Mulvaney
Paul
Poe (TX)
Ribble
Rigell
Ross (FL)
Schweikert
Thornberry

NOT VOTING—44

Akin
Andrews
Bartlett
Bass (CA)
Berman
Boren
Buchanan
Carney
Chandler
Costello
DeGette
Filner
Forbes
Frank (MA)
Gallegly
Grijalva
Grimm
Heinrich
Herger
Holt
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Keating
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Loebsack
Manzullo
Matsui
Meeks
Miller, George
Pence
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rothman (NJ)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Stutzman
Sullivan
Towns
Turner (OH)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1802

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 607, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 808.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

URGING PASSAGE OF FARM BILL

(Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this House to come together and support a new comprehensive farm bill. Farmers in my district are the most efficient producers in the world; however, their productivity and efficiency could be hindered if this body does not act on a new farm bill.

After facing a historic drought this year, farmers saw a tremendous drop in yields. Crop insurance was there to keep them afloat; however, there is so much uncertainty that, if we don't act soon, the producers in my district and across the country could be facing unjust consequences when going to buy their seed, fertilizer, and other inputs for the 2013 crop.

There are differences between the bill that was passed by the House Ag Committee, of which I'm a member, as compared to that of the Senate. That's why we need to bring the House bill to the floor for a vote, so that we can go to conference committee and work out our differences just as we did last year in the highway bill.

Certainty is what the farmers need right now in order to continue to produce the safest and most affordable food in the world. I urge both sides to come together and pass a new 5-year farm bill before the end of the year.

□ 1810

VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIPTON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, violence is continuing to erupt in the Middle East. Unfortunately, it remains true that for every action there is a reaction. So when this administration decided to push its ally, President Mubarak, out of leadership in Egypt, it was assisting in creating instability around our other ally, Israel. And that instability continues to grow.

One of the things that was helpful from Egypt while President Mubarak was in charge, at least there were some efforts to restrict the transfer of rockets into the Gaza Strip. So there were some tunnels that would be found. The tunnels had to be kept small, so they were able to get smaller rockets into Gaza. But now that there is a new regime, apparently the bigger rockets are getting into Gaza, and they pose more and more of a threat as they continue to be fired into Israel.

The action is not only the fall of an ally, President Mubarak, but the assistance in bringing to power in Egypt the Muslim Brotherhood. They want to see Israel gone, and they would also not mind seeing the United States gone.

It's important when formulating foreign policy that the United States, particularly the Obama administration, decide are we going to be assisted with our own personal security here in the United States by the actions that we take, or are the reactions that are going to be caused by our actions actually going to cause greater threats to our closest allies and to ourselves. And, unfortunately, that's what we're seeing. In fact, I saw an article in May of 2010 which indicated that this administration, the Obama administration, sided with Israel's enemies in demanding that Israel disclose any nuclear weapons. We'd never sided with Israel's enemies in trying to push Israel into doing something against its own interests. When you're a very small country surrounded by countries that want to see you go away, it is important that they not know all of your defenses.

Going back in the Old Testament, you find history, King Hezekiah showing all of their treasure and all of their defenses. All of their defenses they had in their armory, he showed them to the leaders of Babylon. As a result, ultimately that kingdom was lost to the Babylonians.

You don't show other nations, even people you think are friends at the moment; they may turn into enemies. It is important that your enemies, and even your friends, not know all of your defenses. And yet we sided with Israel's enemies, or at least this administration did.

The result we saw within 2–3 days, the flotilla head from Turkey to challenge the blockade of the Gaza Strip. It was a legitimate, lawful blockade that was trying to keep rockets out of Gaza that would inflict death and terror upon Israel. A legitimate blockade. The only things being kept out were weapons, rockets, things that would kill the Israelis and terrorize our ally. But that's what happens. You have challenges to a nation when that nation's enemies see their strongest ally pull away and siding with that nation's enemies.

That's why it was so important, and I began pushing at that time, to have Prime Minister Netanyahu invited to speak here in this Chamber. And a year later, to his great credit, Speaker BOEHNER, at the urging of many of us, invited Prime Minister Netanyahu, and he gave the best speech I've heard here in Congress. It helps when a nation's enemy sees their strongest ally siding with them.

On the other hand, when a nation's enemies see the strong ally, in this case the United States, turning on an ally, as this administration had with President Mubarak, and helping people who want to see Israel gone from the map take power, it encourages Israel's enemies.

This administration also had relations with Qadhafi, who had opened up—he had blood on his hands from prior years, not a good man, but he had opened up his country, abandoned any nuclear weapons pursuit, and become an ally. I have seen individual family members of Muammar Qadhafi here in Washington to meet with administration officials. And then, lo and behold, a year and a half or so ago, this administration sides with the enemies. And at the time we knew al Qaeda was contained within the revolt, and we sided with the al Qaeda-backed revolt to drive out Qadhafi. That appears to have inspired the violence in Tunisia.

And so we have seen Israel's enemies and our own enemies actually grow in strength—Tunisia, Libya, Egypt—coming on to surround Israel, and any threat to Western values that are found in Israel is a threat to our own existence. And it's important that someone in this administration make repeated note of that because the result here recently has been further violence to our friend and ally, Israel.

So we have this report, November 15, 2012, three people were killed as rockets fired from Gaza struck southern Israel escalating violence. They died when a four-story building in the town of Kiryat Malachi was hit. There had been about 200 rockets fired into Israel. Israel's Iron Dome was able to intercept many of them, but couldn't possibly intercept as many as 200.

□ 1820

''Hamas' political leader Khaled Mashaal vowed to continue the 'resistance' against Israel,'' Reuters news agency reported.

This ''resistance'' is just another word for ''violence.'' They're inflicting violence on Israel and then turning around and blaming Israel for defending itself and trying to continue to grow world opinion against the tiny nation of Israel when it's not Israel that is demanding the total annihilation of its enemies in surrounding countries. They just want to live in peaceful coexistence. But this administration has helped its enemies take over the countries surrounding it.

And now we're aware of enemies coming into Jordan, beginning to incite a potential revolt there against another ally who must wonder is this administration going to turn on him next.

King Abdullah has not been someone with whom we've agreed on all things, but he has kept a relatively very peaceful border with Israel. So necessarily he would wonder, Because I've kept the peace with Israel on their border, am I going to be targeted next? And the answer needs to come very loudly and very clearly—and it doesn't seem to be much of a muffle at all—that we support those who will prevent violence against Israel, against their Western values, against their desire to just live in peace and be left alone. And yet we've helped their enemies build violence and potential for more violence around it.

This story from Sky News reported that the rockets hit near Tel Aviv deeper into Israel. Palestinian militants target Israel with nearly 150 rockets, striking the outskirts of Tel Aviv as Israel continues airstrikes.

And there has been a problem: Since this administration helped create the environment in north Africa and in the Middle East where those who want to see Israel destroyed could take power, more violence has occurred, not less; more people's lives are in danger, not less. There's less freedom of worship, not more. The things that we believe in—freedom of worship of all people or no worship if people choose not to worship—these kinds of things should be kept inviolate.

And yet we've seen, as this Nation took over Afghanistan, more Americans have died in about half the time under Commander in Chief Obama as died during the 7 years and 3 months under President Bush in Afghanistan, American military. Over 70 percent of those killed in Afghanistan have been under Commander Obama in about half the time. We've seen violence escalating against Americans in Afghanistan. We've seen the last Christian church, public Christian church pull out of Afghanistan.

This administration should be encouraging freedom of worship, encouraging the liberation of women, of children. And yet for all its help, it's created environments in Libya, in Egypt, in Afghanistan, in Iraq where there is more and more violence, more and more oppression against women, against children, against Christians, against Jews, against anyone who wants to worship other than in a radical Islamist way.

Sometimes we wonder who's in charge in this administration because somebody's got to figure it out. So I was glad to hear President Obama say yesterday, Don't be accusing Ambassador Rice of going out and lying.

And we know that something is not a lie unless somebody knows that it's not true when they say it. The President apparently indicated that she was given the information that was untrue, to go out and spread those untruths. And if she didn't know that the statements she was told by the White House to go out and tell were not truths, then she was not lying. And she should be given credit for not lying if she didn't know those untruths she was telling were not true.

But then it raises more and more questions. You know, who is in charge there?

Woodward's book raises the issue of the President coming to meetings over crises and not even knowing who's going to be coming to brief him on things; whereas, a strong leader would come in and, I want to hear from this person, this person, this person.

Who's making the decisions? Who does know what's true and not true in this administration? Who can we depend on at 3 in the morning when we have public servants who have been sent into harm's way to do this administration's bidding, who is going to answer that phone and say, The people

that we ordered into harm's way on our behalf are in trouble? Right now, get them all the help we can give them. Who's going to answer that call? Why does it take 8 hours to get the people ordered into harm's way some help? We're stronger than that. We've got vehicles, planes, things that can get there faster.

So why are people trying to cover up who makes those decisions? Who decides not to help the people we have in harm's way? And if we don't figure that out, how can we expect anybody to ever come forward and sign up to put their lives on the line for their country?

We have the greatest military in the history of this country. The men and women who have served this country throughout our history have been extraordinary, but never with the power and the ability of the military that we have now. It's extraordinary.

But when this administration creates rules of engagement that even go one step worse than telling our people, When you're fired on, you can defend yourself, but if you're not fired on and somebody raises a weapon and they're going to shoot at you, they look like they're going to shoot at you, you have got to wait to make sure they're going to shoot at you before you shoot back, that's the kind of impression our military has gotten in the field in the past.

But as I've talked to military members in Afghanistan, it's their impression that the rules of engagement are such that now when they're fired at, they can't fire back if they think there might be a civilian somewhere that might get hit, because if they do and they hit a civilian, even defending themselves in what in America would be self-defense, sent into harm's way might get them sent to prison when they get home. So they are tasked with an unenviable position of deciding, Do I want to defend myself against death and risk going to prison when I get home, being jailed by the country that I'm trying to defend, to serve?

We've got to get some answers of who's making the decisions that are getting our military killed, that have gotten an Ambassador killed, that got two former SEALs killed. We have got to get some answers. Who's covering this stuff up? Somebody is. We can't get the story straight.

□ 1830

General Petraeus is supposed to appear tomorrow.

We need an independent prosecutor to do an investigation, not with the intention, as apparently Fitzgerald had, of ''getting somebody,'' so that he goes into the investigation into whether or not Valerie Plame was outed and he finds out the answer and decides to do what he can to get somebody inside the Bush administration, even though he knew that Scooter Libby was not responsible and was set up. He should have been truthful. You should always be truthful. But the prosecutor was not honorable in the way that that was pursued. If he knew the answer as to who had outed Valerie Plame, that it was not Scooter Libby, it was not Karl Rove, he should have been honorable enough to own up to that instead of asking for more money and trying to set up other individuals.

So with those kinds of things going on, it's understandable how people would expect that having an independent counsel might not be a good idea. But when there are clearly conflicts of interest, when you have an FBI that is investigating information that involves the Director of the CIA, when you have an Attorney General that has information that needs to go immediately to the Commander in Chief, to the President of the country, we need to find out, did it go there, and if not why not. And, if so, what in the world is the President doing with this information because now he's saying they didn't get it until after the election. Why so long? Where are the problems here? Why are the stories different? Why are the stories that were told different from the evidence those people had in their hands when they told their stories? The answers need to be found, and there's clearly a conflict of interest.

We do not need to return to the days of an FBI Director who investigates, not to report to the Commander in Chief, but to gather information so that he can get it and use it or provide it to someone else who can use it to force people to do what they want.

So what happens when an FBI Director comes into office honorably, with the best of intentions, as it appears J. Edgar Hoover did, to battle organized crime that was such a blot on this country. When you're in power too long, as Stalin, who should have known, said, With power dizziness.

So there has to be accountability. It's what the Founders had in mind. Checks and balances. We've seen with the Supreme Court's decision in ObamaCare that they're going to allow unconstitutional laws to go forward. They're not going to be the ones to rein in violations of the Constitution that are contained in bad legislation: You guys in Congress need to figure that out. Our Chief Justice punted on that one.

So it's back to us. Members of Congress have the purse strings. And if the administration will not properly appoint a special prosecutor to investigate, not with the intent of putting someone in jail but to see if there is something that needs to be prosecuted, if they're not willing to do that, then we need to cut off funds to those areas that are refusing to do justice. Because an Injustice Department should not be funded, at least the parts of it that are doing injustice. There are parts that are serving nobly and well. Fund those parts.

We have the power of the purse to check and balance an administration running amok. So when an administration takes actions to make sure that people who are illegally voting have the chance to illegally vote, we need to look at what areas we are funding there. Because if there's a Justice Department that is assisting—complicit—in seeing that people not legally allowed to vote, vote, then we have the power of the purse strings to do something about it, and we should. And if the Senate fails to rein in injustice, they need to be exposed, those who stand in its way. Because that's the great thing about America. When Americans get the truth, they stand on the truth and stand for justice. They always have. But they've got to get the truth.

And sometimes these days it's hard to know what's true. When you have an administration sending out different stories, and then we find out that they knew all along that it was a violent, coordinated attack on our Ambassador, that the two former SEALs that were killed were not killed seeking cover, as this administration released that they were. You had one on the top of a building using a machine gun, fighting to the end to protect others. That's not a man seeking cover. That's a man giving cover to others. That's a man laying down his life for his country. And this administration did not serve him as he served it.

We need to get to the bottom of what's going on. Whatever it takes, lawfully, ethically, we need to get to the bottom of it. We need to require that if this administration is going to continue getting funding, it better start protecting those who are protecting it. And if that means that in order to protect those who are in harm's way, then let's fund those who are in harm's way protecting us and not fund the rest until they are committed to protecting those of us who are in harm's way. We can do that.

Social Security, despite the lies that were told by some in the last couple of years that, oh gee, if there's a shutdown, Social Security recipients, you're not going to get a dime. Garbage. Those are lies. And people need to know if and when those things start getting told, they are lies, whoever would tell them, because the law has been passed previously that if there is a government shutdown, Social Security recipients will get their Social Security checks. They will be coming. Because the money will continue to come in. Just because there has been a government shutdown in the past did not mean that people didn't have to send in their tax payments. They have to come. You commit a crime if you intentionally refuse to pay taxes.

So the money comes in. Social Security checks will go out. We've had bills in the past, and we'll have them as soon as we start a new Congress, that will ensure that those Americans who are standing in the gap, who are in harm's way for us, those men and women wearing uniforms, should never have to worry about whether or not

their paycheck will be forthcoming; that regardless of what kind of games get played here in Washington, they're going to get paid. They ought to know that. We ought to pass that bill like we have with Social Security to make sure those in harm's way don't have to worry about that.

And then the message needs to be loud and clear that an administration that refuses, whether it's intentional or neglect, negligence, that fails to ensure the protection of those protecting us, you're not going to get funded until we get commitments to make sure it's done in the future. And when you obfuscate the truth and you keep us from finding out who made these decisions that got our people killed, what in the heck were they doing over there in the first place?

Our embassy's not in Benghazi. What was going on? Who gave the order for Ambassador Stevens to be there in harm's way? Until we can start finding out those answers, it's going to be impossible to make sure that we protect those who are protecting us in the future. And what kind of message does that send to our allies?

□ 1840

In Israel, a year ago, a minister told me that they routinely get visits from Chinese diplomats who say: Hey, have you figured out you can't trust the United States yet? Because we'll be your great ally. We'll be a lot better ally than the United States has been. All you've got to do is let us know when you figure it out. You can't trust the United States; they'll break their word, you can't count on them. When you find that out, let us know. We'll keep coming around because you'll find out at some time.

Listen, there never needs to be a time again ever when a United States ally is betrayed by the United States. When we make an agreement with an ally, with a friend, that agreement needs to be kept. People need to know that this country keeps its word. Even when it hurts, we keep our word. And that seems to be a problem lately.

You want to go back to when America began to grow economically and become a power economically? After the War of 1812 that dragged on for 2 years really destroyed so much, including the fire in this very building—this section was not here yet, but the central part of the Capitol, fires were set. The smaller Federal offices out here in what we now consider the Mall, they were burned. The White House was set on fire—even though the interior was completely destroyed, the exterior shell was left in place. But that also was true of much of the country, devastated. But there were loans that had been taken out by Americans from British banks before the War of 1812. Those in British banks might have suspected that as a result of our war with Great Britain, 1812 to 1814, that at the end of the war we would not pay our debts. But instead what happened, those American forefathers, foremothers, they agreed, look, we made a promise to pay back our loans to the banks in England, we're going to stand good for our word, despite the fact that their country destroyed so much of ours.

And it was after the world took note that Americans had such incredible honor, that even after a war with Great Britain they would stand behind their commitments to pay back their loans to the British banks, people said: Wow, this is a country we can do business with, and American economic power began to grow to where it is now the strongest economic power in the world.

Now, people are beginning to wonder: Should we end the dollar as an international currency because we're not sure you can trust the United States? It's time people quit wondering whether they can trust the United States. There's only one way that will happen, and that is when we have an administration—and this one's been reelected for 4 years, so it has to be this one—stops playing games, stops covering up truth, stops giving mixed signals, and is forthcoming: Here are our policies; we have made agreements; we stand by our agreements. King Abdullah, we may disagree with you on a bunch of things, but we have agreements, and we will keep our agreements. This administration needs to make those things clear.

When someone attacks an ally of ours with whom we have agreements, we stand by our agreements. That's the way you prevent wars. Because what we're seeing right now in Israel, with this enhanced and heightened violence that's beginning to occur, people have seen this administration pulling back from our commitments to Israel. That's the way it appears to Israel's enemies. So of course the rockets have gotten bigger that they've been able to smuggle in and construct there in Gaza. The rockets are flying farther into Israel—right now up to their capital at Tel-Aviv—because this administration has not stood firmly enough with our ally. We need to make that clear.

This Secretary of State should not be authorized by the President to tell Egypt, sure, the Muslim Brotherhood appears to be back in charge; sure, Israel is our ally; sure, you want to see Israel wiped off the map; but here's a billion and a half dollars. That's not the message that should be coming. The message that should be coming from this administration is: not one more dime until you start keeping your agreement to protect the border of Israel, not another dime. That ought to be the message. Because Israel is our ally. And if you, Egypt, are going to be our ally, you're going to have to protect our allies as well. That's not an entangling alliance; that's a country that stands by its agreements. Don't make agreements unless we intend to keep them. Yet we've seen this administration repeatedly throw our allies under the proverbial bus. It's got to stop. People have got to know in other countries they can trust our word.

And just like the West African told me when I was there 2 years ago, you've got to tell the people in Washington to quit getting weaker. We were so excited when you elected a black President, but we've seen America get weaker. You've got to tell people in Washington to quit letting your country get weaker, because if America grows weak, we have no chance of peace in this life. That was echoed by others, other West Africans.

It's time to stop growing weaker. It's time to stop breaking our word to our allies. It's time to make clear to Israel's enemies that Israel is our friend, you better back off or you're going to have us militarily to answer to.

Is it any surprise more rockets are flying at Israel? This administration wins 4 more years and the violence just gets greater against Israel, Israel then forced to defend itself when they just want to live in peace. They want the countries around them to stop demanding their obliteration from the map.

If the U.N. is going to persist in helping those who want to see a member of the United Nations wiped off the map, then the U.N. does not need to continue to have the United States as a member. That's the way it ought to be. It ought to be clear. We joined the U.N. The U.N. has a charter that will protect its member states. And if you're going to assist those who want to obliterate Israel, then we will no longer be a part of the United Nations because it's not united, it's anti-Semitic. It's not united, and we will not be part of an un-United Nations.

It's time to get serious because people are dying around the world, including our own Ambassador. It's time to quit covering for the truth. Let us get down to what the truth is. Let the chips fall where they may. Let us find out who did what wrong so we can correct it for the future. And I hope and pray there was no criminal activity—certainly there was negligence, but you don't know until we get a proper investigation.

An Attorney General cannot properly investigate himself. An Attorney General cannot properly investigate his boss. One department, the FBI, cannot properly investigate another agency unless that department's ultimate boss, the President, is aware and coordinates. And now that we know that did not happen—according to the President, he knew nothing. Like Sergeant Schultz from the old Hogan's Heroes, I know nothing, I know nothing, not until after the election. My administration kept me from knowing anything that was going on so I didn't make these decisions, somebody else made those decisions. I didn't know anything until after the election. They kept all this stuff from me, so I had plausible deniability. I didn't know of this stuff.

□ 1850

It's time somebody knew, but we're not going to get to the bottom of it until we have an independent investigation by someone with the power to do that properly. And if the executive branch will not do what the Constitution would require in a conflict of interest situation like this, then we need a select committee to do the investigation, get to the bottom of it, just as the Watergate committee did.

Let the chips fall where they may, because when people, in government and out of government, see that the government is actually interested in truth, then government gets the truth. People have more faith in the government, and we have a better country. And I hope and pray that day will come.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6511

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina (during the Special Order of Mr. GOHMERT). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Representative MIKE ROGERS from Michigan be removed from H.R. 6511 as an original cosponsor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HEINRICH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and November 16.

Mr. HOLT (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and November 16.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of business in the district.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2606. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities in the Gateway National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4114. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2012, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 743. An act to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in non-disclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

S. 1956. An act to prohibit operators of civil aircraft of the United States from participating in the European Union's emissions trading scheme, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, November 16, 2012, at 9 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE—MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

> ''I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.''

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 112th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

DONALD M. PAYNE, Jr., New Jersey Tenth.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8337. A letter from the Director, Policy Issuance Division, Office of Policy and Program Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Summary of the Final Rule, Additional Changes to the Schedule of Operations Regulations received October 13, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8338. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Investment Management (RIN: 3052-AC50) received November 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8339. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed change to the Fiscal Year 2011 National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation (NGREA) procurement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8340. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Defining Larger Participants of the Consumer Debt Collection Market [Docket No.: CFPB-2012-0040] (RIN: 3170-AA30) received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8341. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Electronic Fund Transfers (Regulation E) [Docket No.: CFPB-2011-0009] (RIN: 3170-AA15) received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8342. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's ''Major'' final rule — Electronic Fund Transfers (Regulation E) [Docket No.: CFPB-2011-0009] (RIN: 3170-AA15) received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8343. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Region III, Philadelphia City, Philadelphia County, PA) [Docket ID: FEMA-2008-0020] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8093] received October 19, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8344. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Germany pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

8345. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Annual Stress Test (RIN: 3064-AD91) received November 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8346. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Clearing Agency Standards (RIN: 3235-AL13) received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8347. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Energy, transmitting A report on ''The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petrol Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran'', pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 68513(a) Public Law 112-81, section 1245(d)(4); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8348. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's 2011/2012 report on the economic dispatch of electricity, ''Economic Dispatch and Technological Change''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8349. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program Test Procedures for Residential Dishwashers, Dehumidifiers, and Conventional Cooking Products [Docket No.: EERE-2010-BT-TP-0039] (RIN: 1904-AC01) received October 13, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8350. A letter from the Director, Sustainability Performance Office, Department of Energy, transmitting copy of the Department's Energy Fleet Alternative Fuel Vehicle Acquisition Report for Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8351. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina Portion of the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, North Carolina-North Carolina 1997 8-Hour Nonatainment Area; Reasonable Further Progress Plan [EPA-R04-OAR-2010-0019(a); FRL-9741-2] received October 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8352. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Portion of York County, South Carolina Within Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, North Carolina-South Carolina 1997 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; Reasonable Further Progress Plan [EPA-R04-OAR-2008-0177; FRL-9740-9] received October 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8353. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire; Infrastructure SIPs for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter Standards [EPA-R01-OAR-2011-0317 and EPA-R01-OAR-2011-0321 (CT); EPA-R01-OAR-2011-0318 and EPA-R01-OAR-2011-0322 (ME); EPA-R01-OAR-2009-0459 and EPA-R01-OAR-2011-0323 (MA); EPA-R01-OAR-2009-0460 and EPA-R01-OAR-2011-0324 (NH); A-1-FRL-9740-1] received October 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8354. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Nonattainment Area Determinations of Attainment of the 1997 Annual Fine Partulate Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0370; FRL-9738-3] received October 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8355. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama; Disapproval of 110(a)(2)(E)(ii) Infrastructure Requirement for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0343; FRL-9739-3] received October 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8356. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina 110(a)(1) and (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2010-1015; FRL-9739-2] received October 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8357. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0754; FRL-9740-7] received October 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8358. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 12-57, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8359. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-0138, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8360. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-071, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8361. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-146, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8362. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-133, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8363. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-144, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8364. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-140, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8365. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-130, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8366. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-121, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8367. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's Report of FY 2012 Audits and Significant Findings; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8368. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's Semiannual Report to Congress for the six-month period ending September 30, 2012, as required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8369. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8370. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, ''Review of the District of Columbia's Performance Measurement System''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8371. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, ''Audit of the Accounts and Operations of ANC 2D for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2011''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8372. A letter from the Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the semiannual report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, pursuant to Public Law 109-55, section 1005; (H. Doc. No. 112—155); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

8373. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Definition of Enforcement Action received November 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8374. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; Amendment 97 [Docket No.: 110620343-2450-02] (RIN: 0648-BB18) received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8375. A letter from the Clerk, Court of Appeals, transmitting an opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Duron-Ortiz v. Holder, No. 11-3851, (October 15, 2012); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8376. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Commercial Acquisition; Anchor Tenancy (RIN: 2700-AD64) received November 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

8377. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Cross Waivers of Liability Clauses (RIN: 2700-AD55) received November 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1206. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to preserve consumer and employer access to licensed independent insurance producers (Rept. 112–694). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on the Judiciary. S. 285. An act for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke; with an amendment (Rept. 112–695). Referred to the private calendar and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia (for himself and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 6590. A bill to provide incentives for States to invest in practices and technology that are designed to expedite voting at the polls and to simplify voter registration; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. STARK, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. DINGELL):

H.R. 6591. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to establish a minimum period of 15 days for early voting prior to the date of an election for Federal office and to ensure that no individual will be required to wait for longer than one hour to cast a ballot at a polling place in an election for Federal office; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6592. A bill to ensure that the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority complies with the Federal Acquisition Regulation; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Ms. BASS of California, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GARRETT, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COBLE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JONES, Mr. GALLEGLY, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. WOLF, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H. Res. 809. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children in foster care awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, recognizing current programs and efforts designed to promote adoption, and encouraging people in the United States to seek improved safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H. Res. 810. A resolution urging the Federal Aviation Administration to continue its cooperation with airports across the United States seeking to implement noise mitigation plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. BIGGERT (for herself, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. PLATTS):

H. Res. 811. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself and Mr. NADLER):

H. Res. 812. A resolution commending the Albanian people on the 100th anniversary of the declaration of their independence from the Turkish Ottoman Empire on November 28, 1912, and commending Albanians in Albania and Kosova for protecting and saving the lives of all Jews who either lived in Albania or sought asylum there during the Holocaust; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia:

H.R. 6590.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 6591.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6592.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 321: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 718: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 1041: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 1044: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1054: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1498: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1675: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 1802: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 1810: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 1833: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 1897: Mr. MARINO.
H.R. 2257: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 2514: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 2524: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2547: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2679: Ms. WATERS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 2885: Mr. LABRADOR.
H.R. 2950: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 3032: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 3053: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3102: Mr. MORAN and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 3238: Mr. SARBANES, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 3506: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 3679: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 3713: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 4077: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 4122: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4137: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 4165: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 4202: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 4228: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 4296: Mr. BASS of New Hampshire and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 4306: Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 4323: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 5817: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 5871: Ms. NORTON, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLAY, and Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 5903: Mr. AKIN.
H.R. 5943: Mr. GARDNER.
H.R. 5969: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5970: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 6047: Mr. ROSS of Florida.
H.R. 6107: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 6149: Mr. DOYLE, Ms. CHU, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 6209: Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 6273: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 6299: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 6311: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 6388: Ms. SPEIER, Ms. JENKINS, and Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 6439: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 6441: Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 6445: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 6454: Mr. LUJÁN.
H.R. 6470: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 6482: Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 6524: Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 6575: Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 6579: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 6587: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 6588: Mr. MORAN and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.J. Res. 13: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.J. Res. 106: Mr. JONES.
H. Con. Res. 116: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. GARDNER.
H. Res. 583: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H. Res. 774: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BASS of New Hampshire, and Mr. BARLETTA.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 6511: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2012 No. 146

Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, today let Your favor rest upon the Members of our government's legislative branch. Establish the works of their hands and strengthen them to honor You by serving others. Let Your lifegiving spirit move them to feel greater compassion for those in need. Lord, use them to remove barriers that divide us. May they strive to be agents of healing and hope, as they help us all live in greater justice and peace.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 419, S. 3254.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the bill (S. 3254) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the filing deadline for all second-degree amendments to S. 3525, the Sportsmen's Act, is 9:10 a.m. today. At 9:15 a.m., there will be a cloture vote on S. 3525.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

FISCAL CLIFF

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, with the new year fast approaching, all eyes are on Washington and whether the two parties can come together and agree on a plan to avoid a massive year-end tax hike. I truly believe we can. I believe the two parties can avoid the so-called fiscal cliff, and in the process I even believe we can agree on a framework for a bipartisan plan to address the even bigger problem of our Nation's fiscal solvency.

But there are clear obstacles to success. If we are going to succeed, if we want to avoid a job-killing tax hike and put the country on a path to solvency, we need to be clear about what the obstacles are.

The first obstacle is a very vocal and very determined group of extremists on the left who are rooting for us to go off the fiscal cliff. They want this to happen. These are the folks the President invited to the White House earlier this week and who seem to have gotten a number of Democrats in the Senate to embrace this reckless idea themselves.

Make no mistake, the goal of these folks is not to do what is best for the middle class. It is not to create jobs. It is not even to balance the books, since the taxes they would hike would not even come close to covering current spending.

What they want is to sock it to those whom they define as rich, regardless of the impact on jobs or the broader economy. That is what motivates this crowd. They are not serious about tackling the Nation's fiscal problems. If we are serious about helping middle-class Americans and helping this economy grow, their radical approach, frankly, should be ignored.

The other obstacle to success is a mindset that says the President of the United States is somehow a bit player in this whole thing, that he is just a bystander sitting around waiting on other people to act. This is a mindset that thinks leadership consists of telling other people to ''work it out,'' while they continue to run a campaign to make sure they cannot.

This is ludicrous. The only way—I repeat—the only way we are going to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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solve this present crisis and get past the political stalemate is for the President himself to lead.

To illustrate the point, let me remind everyone of something that happened just 2 years ago next month—just 2 years ago next month—because it says a lot about the power of Presidential leadership in critical moments such as this. Less than 2 years ago, the President said he was not going to allow tax rates to go up on anyone because, as he put it, you do not raise taxes in the middle of a recession.

So let's leave aside for a second that if it was a good idea then, it is an even better idea now, since the economy is growing even more slowly now than it was in late 2010. Let's leave that aside.

The point is that the moment the President of the United States said those words—the moment he signaled he was OK to keep rates where they were—40 Democrats, including many who had spent the previous decade campaigning against them, got in line and followed his lead.

That is an example of Presidential leadership, and that is just what is needed now. The President is the only person in America—the only 1 out of 315 million—who can sign a bill into law. He is the only one who can lead the members of his own party to do something they would not ordinarily do. But first he needs to decide it is time to put away the talking points and do something good, something really good for the country.

Ronald Reagan understood this, Bill Clinton understood this, and President Obama seemed to understand it, too, in December 2010. So I will say it again. The only way we succeed is if the President steps up and leads. It starts by showing that he is serious about success.

Let's be clear. An opening bid of $1.6 trillion in new taxes just is not serious. It is more than Simpson-Bowles or any other bipartisan commission has called for. It has been unanimously rejected in the House and Senate. It is twice as much as the White House seemed ready to agree to during last summer's debt ceiling talks and looked at in the context of the spending cuts that are yet to be enacted from the President's other proposals. It amounts to about 20 cents in cuts for every new dollar in tax hikes. In other words, no cuts at all. It is a joke—a joke.

Look, people I talk to across Kentucky do not want any more political fights. They would like to see us get somewhere. They want the two parties to work together to find a solution to our fiscal problems, and that is just what we are proposing. Yesterday, the President said he had an open mind when it came to finding a solution to those things. He said he is happy to listen to other people's ideas. I think that is a good sign.

If the President has an open mind, maybe he will see that Republicans are the ones who have expressed a willingness to step out of our comfort zone if it actually leads to a solution. We do not happen to think the government needs more revenue. The government spends too much as it is. But if Democrats are willing to reduce spending and strengthen entitlement programs, which we all know are on an unsustainable path that threatens their own long-term viability and the economic well-being of our children and grandchildren, then we will be there.

What we will not do is raise tax rates and kiss goodbye more than 700,000 good jobs in the process. What we will not do is embrace a tax policy that disincentivises saving and work. What we will not do is agree to revenue in exchange for reforms that we know will not ever happen. That is not a good deal for anybody, certainly not the middle class, which the President says he has a mandate to protect.

If the President wants to help the middle class, he will accept a basic outline that Speaker BOEHNER proposed last week and convince his fellow Democrats to do the same. Ignore the reckless voice of those on the far left who are calling for fiscal calamity. Ignore the extremists who want to cover their eyes and do nothing to protect and strengthen entitlement programs for the future and propose a plan that both sides can actually accept.

That is how we get out of this. That is how we succeed. The scope of this challenge calls for Presidential leadership. That is what the American people should be able to expect. That is all Republicans are calling for. It is the President's turn to propose a specific plan that brings both parties together. That is what Presidents are elected to do. That is what he pledged to do. It is precisely the sort of leadership we need.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2012—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the pending business.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3525) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing and shooting, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Tester) amendment No. 2875, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid amendment No. 2876 (to amendment No. 2875), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 2877 (to amendment No. 2876), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 2878 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2875), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 2879 (to amendment No. 2878), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 2880, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 2881 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 2880), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 2882 (to amendment No. 2881), of a perfecting nature.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 3525, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Jon Tester, Kent Conrad, Joe Manchin III, Jeff Bingaman, John D. Rockefeller IV, Benjamin L. Cardin, Ben Nelson, Max Baucus, Jeanne Shaheen, Mark Pryor, Christopher A. Coons, Al Franken, Amy Klobuchar, Jim Webb, Mark R. Warner, Michael F. Bennet.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on S. 3525, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, shooting, and for other purposes shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 203 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Akaka	Feinstein	Mikulski
Alexander	Franken	Moran
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Barrasso	Graham	Murray
Baucus	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Begich	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Bennet	Harkin	Portman
Bingaman	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heller	Reid
Blunt	Hoeven	Risch
Boozman	Hutchison	Roberts
Brown (MA)	Inhofe	Rubio
Brown (OH)	Isakson	Sanders
Burr	Johanns	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Shaheen
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Carper	Klobuchar	Snowe
Casey	Kohl	Stabenow
Chambliss	Landrieu	Tester
Coats	Leahy	Thune
Cochran	Levin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Conrad	Lugar	Vitter
Coons	Manchin	Warner
Corker	McCain	Webb
Crapo	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Durbin	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Merkley	Wyden

NAYS—12

Boxer	Kyl	Paul
Coburn	Lautenberg	Reed
Cornyn	Lee	Sessions
DeMint	Menendez	Toomey

NOT VOTING—4

Inouye	Kirk
Kerry	Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 12. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked, the motion to commit falls.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the cloture vote on the Sportsmen's Act (S. 3525). If I were able to attend today's session, I would have supported cloture on this legislation.•

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the Reid substitute, S. 3525, the Sportsmen's Act of 2012, is legislation that has a lot of very good things in it. Senator REID attempted—although outside the normal committee process—to put together a package of bills that could do some good things. I generally am supportive of the package. I think it has some very good qualities to it, and I very much want to support it. But there is a problem with it. It is a small but important problem, and it needs to be fixed.

That is that, once again, after the Budget Control Act agreement reached in August, 15 months ago, the majority has brought forth a bill that violates the Budget Control Act, in which we agreed to a deemed budget as part of that process, and we are now spending more than we agreed to spend.

Fifteen months ago, we agreed to limit spending each year for the next 10 years and to stay within a limited amount of spending. Because we are borrowing virtually 40 percent of every dollar we spend, this country has a debt crisis staring us in the eye. Without any doubt, the most obvious threat to America's future is the surging debt: $4 trillion-plus increased debt in just 4 years, and the end is not in sight.

So we agreed, as part of raising the debt ceiling, to limit spending. This bill violates that agreement, and we need not do that. This is not the first one; it is the fourth one. That irresponsibility is one of the things that has placed us into this fix.

We looked the American people in the eye 15 months ago and said, Okay, we will raise the debt ceiling $2.1 trillion—because the administration had reached the limit of borrowing that the United States can incur—but we will reduce our projected spending increases over 10 years by $2.1 trillion. Part of the agreement in the Budget Control Act limited spending in various accounts, and this violates it.

You might say, JEFF, that is your opinion. No, it is not my opinion. I raised this with Chairman CONRAD of the Budget Committee, of which I am ranking member. He and his staff have looked at it, and they certify that this budget violation actually occurs; therefore, the legislation is subject to a budget point of order. It cannot go forward because it violates the deemed budget that we agreed to.

If the budget point of order is raised, which will happen, then my colleagues will have a choice: They can either place the bill on a sound financial path that does not violate the Budget Control Act; or, they can say, Well, we won't pay any attention to that objection. We will waive the budget and just spend more than the budget allowed, because this is really important. It is really important that we raise revenue and spend more on the duck program.

I have been supportive, and the duck stamp is important. But this is not the right way to do this. If you are going to spend more money, you need to reduce spending somewhere else.

Also, I would point out the legislation was changed from the time it came out of committee. Part of the legislation at least when it was proposed in the Committee on Environment and Public Works of which I am a member, we observed that the proposal was to give bureaucrats—government officials, unelected—the power to meet with special interests, or whoever they chose to meet with or not meet with, and set the amount of fees—taxes, you might call it—that would be required of Americans before they could hunt ducks. That has never been so. Previously, the Congress set how much you could charge for a duck stamp.

So this was raised in committee, and our able chairwoman Senator BARBARA BOXER agreed and by a voice vote it was accepted that Congress would set the limit on how much you could raise for duck stamps and burden duck hunters with. That is an important principle, in my opinion. That is violated by the bill that was brought up—not the one that passed committee, but the one brought up by the leader.

I grew up in the country. When I go back home, I love to be in the woods. I don't hunt anymore, but I have been a big supporter. Many of my friends are hunters and fishermen and conservationists. So it is sad that we are having a dispute over this legislation, because we are so close to being able to work out the problems. My request to Senator REID and to our colleagues would be: Let's fix this. Now it looks as though the bill will not be brought up until Monday when we come back, and I hope there will be ample opportunity for us to fix this problem so we are not passing a bill that violates the budget.

Under the bill, it would authorize $142 million in new direct spending over the next 10 years. Some may say that is not a lot, but if that is so, they have been in Washington too long. Mr. President, $142 million is a lot of money, and it is a very important principle because this is not the first time we violated the Budget Control Act.

If we stay with our agreement that we made with each other, that we made with the American people 15 months ago when the Budget Control Act was agreed to, we will at least save $2.1 trillion over 10 years. But if we keep nibbling away at it and eroding what we agreed to, we not only undermine our own credibility, but we weaken our ability to balance the budget. And if we reach a new agreement—which we need to do as we deal with the fiscal cliff then don't the American people need to know we will stand by the agreement we make? Don't they need to know an agreement is something more than a momentary event to get past a crisis and then the next year we can just ignore it? There is too much of this attitude in this Congress. That is one reason this country is in such a dire financial condition. The Reid amendment would violate the committee spending allocations in the deemed budget and would do it not only next year but every year over the next 10 years. This violation does not need to happen.

You say: This is technical. It is technical because it is paid for. We raise the revenue and we spend the revenue, but new spending is paid for by revenue—the tax increase on duck hunting—and therefore what are you worried about, Sessions?

What are we worried about? The agreement was that this whole area of spending would be capped at a certain level. The way to do this is, if you are going to spend more on the duck program, then reductions ought to be made somewhere else in this vast spending program or else you tax and spend. That is what we are doing. It is just tax-and-spend.

They say: We cannot cut anything else in the budget in dealing with interior, environment, and those issues. There is no way we can save another dime. We can't save $14 million a year over ten years anywhere.

Of course we can. There are plenty of places to save it there and in any of the other items of this government that waste money. What are they really saying? What they are saying is that of all the money we are currently spending, all of that is more important than finding $14 million to spend on more duck preservation programs. I am not sure that is correct. I am a believer in the duck stamp program, and I would like to see if we can figure out a way to do more to make sure we preserve those migratory bird habitats and the duck population in America, and I am prepared to be pretty aggressive as a Member of the Senate in developing

policies to do that. But you do not have to tax and spend more. That is the point.

If you look at it and say that we cannot cut any other spending in the entire Federal Government to find $142 million for the duck program, I will just say to my colleagues, that is what we are paid to do. We are paid to make those tough choices. I don't like them sometimes, but it should not be hard in this instance to find this kind of payment. The idea that we can just up a fee and spend more money and violate the budget and nothing is going to happen and we are going to just go along and do that without objection, that time is over because we are in a debt crisis.

We have run up trillion-plus deficits for the last 4 years. President Bush's last deficit was huge. It was one of the largest we had in—maybe ever, $470 billion. We have averaged about $1,300 billion the last 4 years. The year before he left office, there was a $160 billion deficit. So we have $160 billion, $470 billion, a trillion-plus, 4 consecutive years. We are on the road in just a few years to double the debt of the United States again. This cannot be sustained. That is all I am saying. We have had similar budget problems on the postal reform bill, the highway bill, and the veterans jobs corp bill. We have had problems with spending violations on those bills too.

I really hope we will use this period of time to work out some language that fixes this problem. My budget staff can provide a long list of things that would save us this much money and have no real impact on the productivity of our government.

The Migratory Bird Habitat Investment and Enhancement Act—that is a good name, sounds like something we should be for—would actually give the Interior Department a blank check to increase the price of the duck stamp. It gives the Interior Department—unelected bureaucrats—the power to set how much we pay. Currently, it is $15. They could make it whatever figure the Secretary decides it should be, without any limit whatsoever. We discussed this in committee. The committee said: No, this is not the way we want to go. We have not done this before. Congress has stepped up to the plate and been responsible and decided how much we are going to extract from the American people before we allow them to go duck hunting. Granting that power to the Secretary is a significant change from what the committee voted on.

The duck stamp is purchased by all duck hunters in the United States. It was established in 1934. Since its beginning, it has always been set by Congress, not somebody in the bureaucracy. This is an unchecked power. I think it is a delegation of power to a person not accountable to the people, and it might violate the Constitution because only Congress can appropriate money and raise taxes. If it doesn't violate the Constitution explicitly, it violates the spirit of the Constitution. Moreover, by increasing the price of the duck stamp, if you think about it, in this amendment—it is an amendment, a revenue-raising amendment to an S. numbered bill. Senator REID, therefore, by doing that, has put up a revenue enhancement bill originating in the Senate. The Constitution says revenue bills have to originate in the House. That places the bill in jeopardy. The House is very jealous—rightly so—of their constitutional prerogative of commencing all tax revenue bills in the House. The Congressional Budget Office, our objective analysis team, scores the duck stamp provision as an increase in revenue. If the House exerted its privilege under the Constitution, this bill would be subject to a blue slip, a rejection based on the revenue clause.

Also, amazingly, we have no amendments. There is no process to even bring up amendments to vote. So we are stuck with the position of either supporting the bill as is in all its complexity or not. If we fixed this matter, I would be supportive of the bill. We tried to study it. I think it is OK and pretty good, actually. It is a positive step in the right direction if we simply fix this. So the proper remedy for this situation is to allow amendments or send the bill back to committee and figure out how to pass legislation that is within the budget limit.

I will not mention all the good things about this bill. There are a lot of them: the National Fish and Wildlife Act; the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has some good provisions in it. A number of the other pieces of legislation are excellent. I do not think that is in dispute. It is supported by a lot of great wildlife organizations. I support that.

On September 22 the Senate voted 84 to 7 to invoke cloture on a motion to proceed, with the full expectation that when the Senate returned this month, an opportunity would be provided to address the budget concerns and to improve the bill. But now we see that my friend the majority leader has decided to move forward without confronting these issues.

I hope we can figure out a way to avoid this situation. Maybe people did not think about it clearly. Maybe they just thought it is paid for, therefore it cannot be a problem with the budget. But even though it is paid for, it really is a problem with the budget, and we do not need to delegate to some unelected official, even if it is constitutional—about which I have doubts—the ability without limit to raise fees for a normal historic right of Americans to go hunting ducks. I believe that has to be fixed, too, and we should do that.

Finally, I understand the intent is to recess for the rest of the day and all next week. However, in the Armed Services Committee yesterday, we were told we can get the armed services authorization, the Defense authorization bill up for a vote. We can actually bring it up and we can have a vote, and this is great news, and we have to do it in 3 days and very limited amendments, but if you Republicans will agree with that, we can get the bill up.

This is the first time in 50 years we have not passed a Defense bill prior to the September 30 fiscal year end. We are already into the new fiscal year. It should have been passed long ago. More than that, we could have spent 3 weeks on the Defense bill. We did nothing in September. We are doing nothing next week.

What is this about? It is about the management of the Senate defeating the historic ability of Members of the Senate to actually participate in the great issues of our time. One of them is the Defense Department budget and policy. The Defense authorization bill came out of the Armed Services Committee unanimously, but several of us in committee said that we have amendments we want to bring up on the floor. Other Members not on the Armed Services Committee have a right to talk about this $540-some-odd billion expenditure, the largest single expenditure outside of Social Security and Medicare in the entire budget. We are supposed to be thankful we did nothing in September, we are going to do nothing next week, but you now only have 3 days and just a very few amendments, and Senator REID will pick and choose which ones you Republicans get to offer. That is why we are having problems.

Senator REID continues to assert that Republicans are filibustering. What Republicans are saying is we are prepared to move to these bills, but we would like the leader to tell us how many amendments we can get. He has figured out a way to fill the tree—what we call the amendment tree—to a degree that has never been done before, and that allows him to pass legislation without any amendment.

So we say we would like to have amendments, Mr. Leader. This is the Senate.

OK. Submit a list of them to me. You can have two, and it can't be this amendment, it can't be this amendment, and it can't be this amendment. It can only be these kinds of amendments. We will be nice to you. Well, maybe three. Ok, you get three—on a $540 billion defense bill that sets the policy for our military, that decides what weapons systems we are going to invest in with billions of dollars?

Some people in this Senate have opinions about it and they want to come to the floor. Maybe when they were campaigning they said: I am against such and such in the Defense bill, and they want to come here—and it is in the bill and they are against it and they want to offer an amendment and explain why it shouldn't be in the bill. They want to offer an amendment to take it out.

Sorry. We don't have time.

I think this is a dangerous trend. I believe we shouldn't be recessing

today. I believe we should be working. We have the fiscal cliff. We have the defense sequester. We have monumental tax increases about to occur. We have the death tax going to 55 percent of virtually anything somebody has. All these things are going to happen if we don't take some action. We have all these people talking, secretly planning and talking and working, and so about Christmas Eve I suspect they will walk in here with a plan we will be told we have to support or else we will work through Christmas or on January 1 we will be here, and we will have a catastrophe if all these bad things happen.

The President will not even say what he is for. He will not even lay out a plan. Congressman RYAN laid out a plan. He has defended it all over the country and is prepared to discuss it and explain it. What is the President's plan? What is Senator REID's plan? Does the majority leader have any plan to confront our pension programs for Social Security and Medicare that are going broke? Does he have any plan to fix them? What is it? Isn't this important? Does he have any plan to get us off this trillion-dollar debt course? What are we going to do?

Growth is going down. We were at 2.4 percent in 2010; we had that much GDP growth. We have had a very slow recovery from the 2007–2008 recession. But then did it go up in 2011? No; it dropped to 1.8. What about the first three quarters of this year? It was 1.77. The growth is not occurring. We are borrowing and spending, but we are not creating growth. I think we need to deal with this crisis we face and the uncertainty of policies is hurting America's economy also.

I am disappointed we are not dealing with these important issues. I am disappointed we are recessing, and we need to do better.

Mr. DURBIN. Today the Senate voted to end debate on S. 3525, the Sportsmen's Act of 2012. Along with 84 of my colleagues, I voted to support cloture in an effort to move this bill forward. It is a compilation of almost 20 different pieces of bipartisan legislation that are important to the sportsmen's community. The Sportsmen's Act will increase habitat conservation while improving access to recreational fishing and hunting lands. These are laudable goals that are worth supporting. However, the bill also contains troubling provisions allowing the importation of polar bear trophies and lead ammunition that I hope will be changed before final passage of the bill.

In its current form, the bill would allow several hunters who killed polar bears in Canada before a ban was put in place to bring those bear hides back to the United States. This provision would reward hunters who unethically killed polar bears despite multiple warnings of an imminent ban on imports and the imminent listing of polar bears as an endangered species. If enacted, this provision could easily lead to outcomes that no one wants—it could increase demand for polar bear trophies and lead to more poaching or illegal trade of polar bear parts. It could also stimulate demand for other exotic and endangered animal parts from around the globe. That is why I am a cosponsor of Senator KERRY's amendment to remove this provision from the bill.

I also oppose the current bill's exemption of ammunition and fishing tackle from regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Many people are concerned that wildlife in heavy-hunting regions is being poisoned as they consume prey that contains lead ammunition fragments. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service banned the use of lead shot for hunting waterfowl nationwide in 1991 because of concerns that lead shots were causing sickness and death in migratory birds that end up ingesting the shots. And several states have banned the use of lead ammunition in areas where protected bird species live. Exempting ammunition and tackle from EPA regulation doesn't make sense when we know these products are harmful to game and birdlife. I hope the Senate will adopt Senator LAUTENBERG's amendment, which I cosponsor, to remove this provision from the bill.

Ensuring adequate funding for conservation programs and access for sportsmen to recreational lands is important. There is no doubt about that. I support that. But these goals should not be achieved at the expense of animal welfare or public health and safety.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I listened with interest to my colleague from Alabama, and I have great confidence that we will have a robust debate on the National Defense Authorization Act over the next few weeks and that we will keep our record intact that has now been in place for some 50 years of putting in place a national defense authorization act. We did so at this time last year and we did so the previous year and I have every confidence that we will have a comprehensive national defense authorization act that will direct the Pentagon and all the men and women in uniform who serve us so well as to the policies of the United States. I know I will work with my colleague from Alabama to see that accomplished.

WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

I come back to the Senate floor, as I have on many occasions, to urge all of us to take action on a policy that is bipartisan in its support and in its ramifications, and that policy is the production tax credit for wind energy. We need to renew that production tax credit. Why? It has encouraged billions of dollars in investment and it has helped create tens of thousands of good-paying American jobs all across our country.

However, I have to tell my colleagues that our inaction over these last few months is jeopardizing the future of what is a very promising industry. We have literally, over the last months, seen wind industry jobs in the thousands disappear. That is not just a statistic. That is not just a statement. Those jobs have affected real Americans. These job losses were completely preventable. It is time for us to get back to work and extend the production tax credit so our wind industry can also get back to work.

One of the things I have done is I have come to the floor some 20-plus times to focus on an individual State. Today I wish to speak about a State that has an incredible potential for wind power; that is, Montana, the ''Last Best Place'' as Montanans like to describe their amazing State. Similar to almost every State in the country, Montana has seen the jobs, clean energy, and economic benefits of wind power.

I wish to take the viewers on a little bit of a tour of Montana. ''Big Sky Country'' is home to wind resources that could mean the State's current electricity needs 210 times over. When we compare that to other States, we see that Montana then has the third highest wind resource potential in the country. So it is a prominent player in the future progress of our Nation's wind industry. Therefore, it is no wonder that Montana has seen strong development in the wind industry sector.

Looking at this map, Toole County, up here in the northwest corridor of Montana, is the site of a new wind farm, the Rim Rock Wind Farm, north of Cut Bank. It has 126 turbines. They completed the project in September of this year. What is most important is when we think about the jobs for local workers, the generation of $2 million in tax revenue which contributes to the $5.7 million in property taxes from wind farms across the State, it all goes to those local communities for schools, roads, and social services to enhance the quality of life for Montanans. The Rim Rock Wind Farm will power thousands of Montana homes and, along with other wind farms across the State, as I have mentioned. it provided great construction jobs as the project was built.

So Montana will continue to be an attractive State for wind development. However, with the expiration of the PTC looming—literally, within a few weeks the PTC will expire—the future growth of this important industry in Montana is in jeopardy.

We have seen how important this industry is to our energy and manufacturing future. If it is sidelined by partisan wrangling, that would truly be a tragedy. I know—as does the Presiding Officer in his State of New Mexico as well as my State of Colorado—and the people in Montana know we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy to improve our overall energy security, and wind is playing a major role in that effort.

We know Montana's two Senators, Senator BAUCUS and Senator TESTER, are hard-working. They are very effective. They have always supported the production tax credit for their State and for the country. Senator BAUCUS, as the chairman of the Finance Committee, pushed forward bipartisanly supported tax extenders in early August that included the extension of PTC. It is crucial we take up this package as soon as we possibly can and pass it. I wish to acknowledge the work of Senator BAUCUS and his focus on creating American jobs and securing true energy security. However, his work—our work—isn't finished. We have to get the PTC over the finish line and affirm our solemn commitment in this Chamber to Made-in-America energy and American manufacturing. It is this simple. If we fail to extend the production tax credit, we are, in effect, shipping thousands of jobs overseas to places such as China and Europe and our foreign competitors.

So I come to the floor again to implore all my colleagues to stop this possibility from becoming a reality. I wish to reiterate this isn't a partisan issue. There is broad support in this body for wind energy. There is also support in the House. So there is bicameral support as well as bipartisan support. We risk losing thousands of jobs and crippling an industry that is just now establishing itself as a very important part of our economic portfolio.

I think the Presiding Officer would agree we are sent by the people of our States to make smart, informed decisions about the future on behalf of the American people. If we let this important production tax credit expire, it would be a decision we would all regret. I wish to underline as well that the tax credit is applied once that power is produced. This isn't a speculative subsidy. This isn't based on hoping something will happen. It actually is based on power that is produced and that tax credit is directed to the utility or the power company and, in some cases, the community power agency that provides the power. So it is based on actually producing those electrons through wind energy.

Let's show America and the world we are as committed to energy independence and job creation as we often say. Wind is key to reaching that goal. Wind is the path to that goal. Let's put action behind our words and pass the production tax credit as soon as possible.

It is as simple as this: The production tax credit equals jobs. Let's pass it as soon as possible. Let's pass it ASAP.

Thank you. I look forward to sharing some perspectives on the great State of New Mexico soon in the future, and I thank the Presiding Officer for his attention.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN of Ohio). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I stand today to explain my ''no'' vote on cloture this morning in connection with the sportsmen's bill, S. 3525.

This is a large bill. It is made up of a number of legislative proposals that have been put together. In many settings this is a good way to legislate. In many respects it is, and we utilize this procedure on an almost constant basis in order to make the laws of our country. Like many other pieces of legislation that come before us that have been formed in this fashion, this is a bill as to which I can say I support it in part and I don't support it in part. There are parts of it I like a lot, and there are other parts I like a lot less. That is exactly why we have an amendment process. True debate in this country, especially in this body, presupposes and depends for its existence on the availability of an open amendment process.

You see, when people go into a store, they can decide which items they want to buy. They can decide to buy bread and milk and eggs or any combination of the three or other products they might want. It would be disturbing if they got to the grocery store counter and were told they may not buy bread and milk and eggs unless they also buy a bucket of nails, a half a ton of iron ore, a book about cowboy poetry, and a Barry Manilow album. Sometimes that is what we are told when we get to the table to vote in the Senate. In order to get some things we want, we have to buy a whole bunch of other things we might not want.

That is a reality of the legislative process. It is a reality that goes along with compromise, and it is one we live with every day. But, again, this is why it is important for us to have an amendment process, so that we can at least debate the relevant merits of each piece of legislation. More importantly, so that we might figure out how to take a good piece of legislation and make it better or how to take a bad piece of legislation and make it good.

In this circumstance, the majority leader has used a procedure known as filling the tree. He filled the tree, which means, in effect, that we can't offer amendments. We can't offer any amendments other than those few the majority leader decided could be offered. This shuts down debate. There can be no significant debate beyond that which will lead to a vote once the tree has been filled. This is a problem.

Now, Republicans in this body, myself included, voted recently to proceed to this bill believing in good faith there would be an opportunity to amend this bill. The bill is important to me in many respects. One of the things that has gotten my attention is that it addresses a number of issues related to Federal public lands. It addresses a number of other issues related to wildlife conservation and wildlife management and other issues that are important to hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts across the country and in my State in particular.

One of the reasons this bill is especially important to me is that I represent the great State of Utah—a State that has a lot of Federal land. In fact, two-thirds of the land in my State is owned by the Federal Government. For that and other reasons I would like the opportunity to address this piece of legislation by offering amendments—amendments that would make a good bill better.

But this process—a process whereby the majority leader rules this body by dictate—is not good for the Senate. We have come to expect the Senate will be a great deliberative body. In fact, the Senate has long prided itself on being the world's greatest deliberative legislative body.

There are a number of realities about the Senate that make this possible—far more possible than it might be in the House of Representatives. Here in the Senate we have only 100 Members. Just down the hall, in the House of Representatives, they have 435 Members. In that body it is not always possible to have an open amendment process. In this body it is assumed this is the usual order. This is how we are supposed to operate, to have an opportunity for Members to offer and debate and discuss amendments in advance of voting for the bill at the end of the day. Yet we have not had such an opportunity in this case because the leader filled the tree.

This is significant, and I want to emphasize this point. It is true, of course, that majority leaders from both political parties have utilized this procedure from time to time, for one reason or another—perhaps out of a professed need to expedite the legislative process in certain instances. But this majority leader has utilized this procedure a lot more than others. In fact, he has utilized it, by my count, a total of 67 times, more than any other majority leader in history. Why, I ask, has he done this? Why did he do it in this circumstance? Why has he done it in so many other circumstances throughout this Congress and throughout his service as majority leader?

Is it because the Senate has demonstrated an inability to debate and discuss bills and amendments to bills in a reasonable, responsible manner? I don't think so. Let's point to a couple of examples. For example, the National Defense Authorization Act, which this body passed toward the end of last year—the NDAA of 2011. It passed out of this body overwhelmingly, notwithstanding the fact there were a number of amendments introduced. I believe there were dozens of amendments that were introduced, debated, discussed, and ultimately voted upon.

Another example involved the farm bill. It was passed by this body earlier this year. If I am not mistaken, we had over 70 amendments to that bill. I appreciated the majority leader's willingness in that circumstance to allow us to have a pretty open, robust debate and an open amendment process. We still passed the bill, even though we had to conduct a lot of debate and have a lot of discussion and have a lot of votes. But this, you see, is what makes this the greatest deliberative body in the world.

This is what separates us from other legislative bodies around the country and throughout this planet. So it is not the case the Senate simply isn't responsible enough to be able to handle something such as an open amendment process because it has demonstrated its ability to do so time and time and time again.

Now, let's talk about some of the things I like in this bill. I support the fact that this bill would increase access to public lands and remove some burdensome regulations on some activities occurring on those lands. On the other hand, I am not as wild about the fact that this bill devotes $6.5 million on neotropical migratory birds on a program that would require 75 percent of those funds to be spent outside the United States. I know in the big picture of things this is a very small figure in terms of our total national budget. Nevertheless, this is a lot of money. It is a lot of money to hard-working Americans who are paying their taxes in order to fund programs like this. We ought at least to have an opportunity to debate amendments so that Americans can feel as if their money is being spent in the United States for causes that are important to Americans and not on birds outside the United States.

Other Senators have other differences with the bill, other concerns. I agree with some of those concerns; I disagree with others. Each of them should have an opportunity to have those concerns aired, to have them debated in connection with amendments they might choose to introduce. We should be debating all of them. Instead, in effect, we are debating none of them.

That kind of process is especially important in this circumstance because, you see, this bill, as I understand it, has never gone through committee. Normally, in committee we have an opportunity to put a bill through the markup process, to make amendments in committee. This didn't go there. All the more reason we should have an open amendment process right here.

So I have introduced several amendments, and I will refer to just a few of them. One of them would involve a proposal to not spend money we don't have in order to support the conservation of multinational species. It will cost $150 million over 5 years. In other words, it is one thing to spend money on habitat preservation and species rehabilitation for species that actually exist in the United States. It is another thing to spend a lot of money on species outside the United States, on creatures that have never entered our borders and never will. That is something I think Americans are concerned about, and it is something I think we ought to have a chance to debate as long as we are debating and voting on this legislation.

I have another piece of legislation that would require State legislative approval for any new Federal land designations. As I said a few minutes ago, with the Federal Government owning two-thirds of the land in my State, I am especially concerned about the possibility of, for example, the President deciding to just designate a new national monument within my State. This happened a few years ago when President Clinton designated the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument inside Utah. He didn't go to Utah to announce it, he went to Arizona to announce it.

This is beautiful land. It is beautiful territory. But all of this was accomplished by the stroke of a pen from one Chief Executive without any opportunity or input from Utah, from its 3 million residents, from its elected officials. I think anytime the Federal Government takes this kind of action—action that will have a profound impact on the State, on its sovereign rights, on its ability to raise revenue, on its ability to encourage and promote economic activity within its boundaries—there ought to be input and approval from the State legislature. I have an amendment that would address this concern.

I have another amendment that would offer certain Federal lands for disposal by a competitive sale process. We have an enormous amount of land in this country. Some of it is being put to good use; other land is being set aside because of its wilderness characteristics; still other land is just sitting there not doing anything. I think some of that land could be sold and some of that money could be used to fund our programs—programs that are cash strapped, along with everything else in this country right now.

These and other amendments need to receive consideration. I am not saying every one of them has to pass in order for this legislation to proceed, but every one of them ought to be debated, and the American people should have an opportunity to have their input through their own elected Senators.

I would deeply regret it if this were somehow an indication that our majority leader intends to operate the Senate this way, not only throughout the duration of this Congress but into the next Congress as well. I want to be clear that I have great respect and admiration for our majority leader. I have known him for most of my life—since I was 11 years old, in fact. I consider him a friend.

I ask him—I implore him—as my friend to reconsider this practice of filling the tree and thereby forestalling the introduction of amendments. We need an open amendment process. Our status as the world's greatest deliberative legislative body requires nothing less.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CYBER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last evening the majority leader had a second cloture vote on S. 3414, the Lieberman cyber security bill. This vote to end debate on a comprehensive, complex bill that was never reported out of committee or subject to a markup came despite the fact that not a single amendment, except for those used to fill the amendment tree, was allowed to be made pending to the bill.

The majority leader had made prior commitments to allowing a free and open debate on cyber security, a matter that Republicans acknowledge must be addressed, especially in the areas of information sharing, and providing some degree of liability protection to those companies that do share cyber threat information with one another and the Federal Government. Yet, despite this commitment, the majority leader triggered this second cloture vote on the bill and filled the amendment tree throughout floor consideration of cyber security legislation.

Now the Senate will hopefully move to a full and open debate of the national defense authorization bill. During the time that that bill is considered on the floor—and I do expect that bill to be subject to an open amendment process—my hope is that the majority leader will work with me to reach agreement on allowing a debate on cyber security legislation with Republican amendments in order, especially since the ranking members of Armed Services, Intelligence, Commerce, and Judiciary are all cosponsors of a cyber security bill that needs to be considered as part of this debate.

My expectation is that sometime in December after we have completed floor debate on the Defense authorization bill, and then disposed of the Intelligence authorization bill, we will then attempt to get an agreement on amendments to the cyber security bill.

TRIBUTE TO ERNIE ALLEN

Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a close personal friend of mine of over 40 years, a Kentuckian who is a hero to his country and an inspiration to many for his work on behalf of children where he has made a national impact.

In his 23 years of service as president and chief executive officer of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Ernie Allen has saved thousands of lives and reunited thousands of families.

Today, November 15, Ernie retires from the helm of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a private nonprofit center which he cofounded. Under his leadership, the National Center assisted in the recovery of more than 178,000 missing children. They have trained almost 300,000 law enforcement and criminal justice professionals in policy and protocols for missing children investigations. And they have achieved a missing child recovery rate of 97.7 percent.

Losing Ernie's talents at the National Center will be a loss for Kentucky as well as for the Nation. Kentucky was proud to have one of our own leading this important cause. I have known Ernie for over 40 years, dating back to our days at Manual High School in Louisville. On the same day I won election as president of the student body of the high school, he was elected president of the junior high portion of the same school. We both went on to attend the University of Louisville and were actually fraternity brothers there.

Knowing Ernie so well, I can assure you that his dedication to rescuing missing children runs very deep. Over 25 years ago, when I was judge executive in Jefferson County—a position that is the head of the executive branch of county government—Ernie was the director of the Louisville/Jefferson County Crime Commission. Louisville, of course, is the major city located within Jefferson County, and in fact these days the city and county governments have merged. That was not the case, however, in those days, and we in the county government had to coordinate and work with officials in city government. This Louisville/Jefferson County Crime Commission was one of the best examples of cooperation between city and county government back in those days.

That commission was the first of its kind to bring police officers and social workers together on behalf of kids. Just one innovation Ernie came up with back then was to make a fingerprint card for as many Kentucky kids as possible, and send that card home to the child's parents to use to assist investigators in the awful event their child ever went missing.

Ernie's work in Kentucky established him as a national leader in his field as early as 1981. At that time, no nationwide organization existed to share and distribute information on missing children. If a child was abducted and taken over a State line, or even a county line, the chances that law enforcement in the new jurisdiction had all the information necessary to save that child were quite small.

Ernie led the effort to lobby Congress to establish laws so that police could talk to each other across boundaries about these missing children. His work and patience bore fruit in 1984, when President Reagan signed the bill creating the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children as a public-private partnership.

Ernie was an integral part of the founding of the National Center. He then became its president and CEO in 1989. He has been a nationally recognized authority in combating child abduction and exploitation for decades. The U.S. Justice Department sought out his expertise in the wake of the tragic child murders in Chicago and Atlanta, Congress has sought his expert testimony many times on issues ranging from international child abduction, to missing children, to online crimes against children.

Ernie worked to secure the passage of the National Child Search Assistance Act, which prohibits waiting periods for initiating missing child investigations. Previously, some law enforcement agencies refused to take reports of missing children until a certain period of time had elapsed. Now, thanks to Ernie, there are no unnecessary bureaucratic delays in cases where any hesitancy can be the difference in returning an abducted child to their parents or opening a murder investigation.

Ernie advocated for the AMBER Alert Program, which has to date saved 600 abducted children. Today there is an AMBER Alert plan in every single State. Ernie has always recognized the critical role technology plays in these rescue efforts, from the AMBER Alert, to his spearheading the launch of the National Center's CyberTipline in 1998. This so-called ''911 for the Internet'' is a clearing center for reports on crimes against children on the Internet, and so far has received more than 1.5 million reports.

Ernie is a lawyer and a member of the Kentucky bar. He is also a teacher, having held faculty positions at the University of Louisville, the University of Kentucky, and Indiana University. He has been honored by his alma mater, the University of Louisville, as a distinguished alumnus of the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, and as an Outstanding Alumnus of the College of Arts and Sciences.

I am pleased to report to my colleagues that Ernie will not be leaving the fight for America's kids. No, his passion won't allow him to take a typical retirement. We are lucky that even as he is stepping down from his role at the helm of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, he will now focus exclusively on his new role as president and CEO of the International Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

If there was some way for me to express the gratitude that literally thousands of American families have for Ernie and the National Center, I certainly would, but that seems impossible. Imagine the relief of just one family who fears the worst about a missing son or daughter and then, thanks to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, is reunited with their child safe and sound. Multiply that by tens of thousands, and you will only just begin to see the enormous difference Ernie has made during his career. I am honored to say that I have watched and admired his work for many years, and I am honored to call him a friend.

Thank you, Ernie, for your great contribution to the cause of justice.

I wrote Ernie a letter congratulating him on his career and wishing him well on his retirement, and I ask unanimous consent to have that letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NOVEMBER 15, 2012.

ERNIE ALLEN,
President & CEO, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Prince Street, Alexandria, VA.

DEAR ERNIE: It is an honor to express to you my gratitude for your dedication to protecting America's children. You've brought peace to thousands of families, and your retirement from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children will be a great loss.

When you took the reins at the National Center in 1989, it was easier to track down a missing car than a missing child. Now, thanks to your efforts, the National Center boasts a 97.7 percent recovery rate.

As your friend of over 40 years, I've been inspired by your career and character. Thank you, Ernie, for serving this mission of justice.

Sincerely,

MITCH MCCONNELL,
United States Senator.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. WARNER pertaining to the introduction of S. 3635 are printed in todays RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, what is the parliamentary situation? Are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are postcloture on S. 3525.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer. I ask unanimous consent to proceed for no more than 5 minutes as in morning business and then resume in the regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VERMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, Vermont is a small State, but it is filled with very big people. Perhaps none are better known or more well liked or more respected than Antonio Pomerleau. He is the Vermont Chamber of Commerce 2012 Vermont Citizen of the Year. Vermonters know Tony Pomerleau by many names. They either call him Mr. P or Tony. My wife

Marcelle and I have the good fortune of calling him Uncle Tony. He is my wife's uncle. They have a family bond that I admire. But no matter what we call him, we all agree that the best term to describe Uncle Tony is ''generous.''

This is not the first time I have come to the floor of the Senate to share stories of Tony Pomerleau's good deeds. Only 6 years ago, the Burlington Free Press named him the 2006 Vermonter of the Year. After that editorial, I came to the floor to tell the story of a successful real estate magnate turned philanthropist who touched the lives of thousands of Vermonters for the past several decades. At that time, he was 89 years old.

This year Tony has undertaken a series of good deeds so substantial that it would be irresponsible if we Vermonters did not acknowledge him with additional recognition and praise. In addition to his unwavering philanthropic commitment to Vermont, this year Tony has demonstrated why he is seen as a pillar of our community—I might say a granite pillar of our community. When Tropical Storm Irene destroyed people's homes, Tony immediately donated $1 million to put them back together. When a decade-long struggle to save a mobile home park in Shelburne, VT, seemed destined to fail, Uncle Tony showed up to rebuild the neighborhood and donate it to the residents. And when his hometown, Newport—Marcelle's birthplace—began discussing plans to reinvigorate its beautiful waterfront, Tony offered to lead the way.

Any one of these three activities over a lifetime would warrant a lifetime achievement award. But Tony Pomerleau did them all in 1 year—at the age of 95.

This year's very public good deeds go hand in hand with a lifetime of public and private philanthropy. His generosity has touched tens of thousands of Vermonters, from college students at St. Michael's College, where he has been a leading benefactor, to the struggling families who attend his community Christmas parties, to the families of our deployed Vermont National Guard members who are able to come together in celebrations with Tony's support.

Perhaps the best gift Tony Pomerleau has given Vermont is the sense of community and work ethic he has instilled in his family and employees. He and his wife Rita had 10 children, 8 of whom remain with us today. And often one of his many grandchildren travels with him when he goes around the State.

Vermont is a better place thanks to Tony and his good deeds. On behalf of all Vermonters, I thank the Vermont Chamber of Commerce for spotlighting Antonio Pomerleau's good works on behalf of his beloved fellow Vermonters.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MCCASKILL). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE FISCAL CLIFF

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the American people have spoken, and once again they have given us divided government. In that sense, we can say this was a status quo election. Before the election, just a week or so ago, we had President Obama in the White House, Democrats controlling the Senate, and Republicans controlling the House of Representatives.

After the election, we have President Obama in the White House for another 4 years, Democrats controlling the Senate, and Republicans with the majority in the House. What that tells me is the American people do not completely trust either political party to come up with all the answers. They want those kinds of checks and balances that divided government brings; that is, conducive of consultation, deliberation, negotiation, and compromise, not the kind of compromise that violates one's most fundamental principles.

That would be wrong. But as one of my colleagues had told me who actually—Senator ENZI, I will use his name, from Wyoming, one of the most conservative Members of the Senate on our side from Wyoming, he worked famously with that—I say this with all due respect—liberal lion of the Senate, Teddy Kennedy, worked very productively to produce a lot of legislation out of the HELP Committee.

One time I asked Senator ENZI how was it that he and Teddy Kennedy—in other words, one of the most conservative Republicans and one of the most liberal Democrats—how did they work together so productively to come together to pass legislation. He said it is easy. It is easy. He said it is the 80–20 rule. I know it sounds simplistic, but there is a lot of wisdom there. If two people are trying to work together in a bipartisan way to try to advance solutions to our Nation's problems, neither side is going to get all they want. The only way perhaps to come up with moving the ball down the road or advancing solutions is to say: You know what. Do not let the perfect become the enemy of the good, and let's take the 80 percent we can agree upon and leave the 20 percent we cannot agree upon for another day and another battle.

A lot of wisdom in that it strikes me. The fact is that divided government means that neither Democrats nor Republicans are going to get everything they want. No legislation can pass. It cannot pass, no legislation can, strictly along partisan lines. It means bipartisan compromise is the only avenue to avoid further gridlock.

This Congress has kicked a lot of cans down the road. We have punted over into the lameduck session issues that we should have dealt with months ago in the regular order of things without the imminent pressure of the fiscal cliff or other things that threaten to put our country into a recession.

But the fact is, divided government has yielded some very positive developments for the American people in the past. In 1986, it produced landmark tax reform when Democrats and Republicans—Ronald Reagan as President, worked together to make our Tax Code more logical, more equitable, and more efficient. Ten years later, divided government produced a sweeping overhaul of our welfare system under then-President Bill Clinton. Conservative Republicans joined with a Democratic President to help millions of lower income people break free of the cycle of dependency and despair.

Of course, we know we have divided government. As I said earlier, we had a status quo election in that sense. We have had divided government since January 2011 when Republicans regained the majority in the House of Representatives. The result over the last 2 years sadly is it has produced legislative stalemates and bitter recriminations. Why should anybody think things will be different going forward?

I think what is different now from then is that Republicans and Democrats alike recognize we are at a crossroads, that our current fiscal path is unsustainable, and that we are either going to send the economy back into a recession unless we deal with the fiscal cliff and the sequestration or the alternative is—and being an optimist by nature I think we have an opportunity to address some of our Nation's most challenging fiscal issues.

But the fact is this. I would love to have someone tell me I am wrong. I would love to understand any reason they would disagree with this. But I would say it should be stipulated by Republicans and Democrats alike that we cannot continue to run trillion-dollar annual deficits. We cannot continue to run the Federal Government borrowing 42 cents out of every $1 the Federal Government spends. We cannot do it.

The only reason we can do it now is because interest rates are at historic lows. Because of what is happening in Europe, the American dollar is probably the only safe currency, safe harbor in the world now for people worried about protecting their savings. But we cannot continue along this path. If, for example, interest rates go up, the amount of money we must pay to our creditors such as China simply to keep buying our debt—if it were to go up to historic norms, our national debt would spiral out of control.

Right now we see this on our savings, on money market accounts or savings accounts. If we want to save some money, about the best interest rate we can get is less than 1 percent return on our savings because the Federal Reserve has worked to keep interest rates

very low in order to help juice the economy and, hopefully, keep us from going into recession again. But we cannot continue down this path. If interest rates were to return to their historic norms, we would spiral out of control and into a recession or worse.

Secondly, we cannot continue to put off structural changes in Social Security and Medicare. I would think Republicans and Democrats alike would agree that we want to save and preserve Social Security and Medicare for our seniors. We may have different ideas about how to do that, but I would think we could agree on the goal. So far we have heard nothing from the President to deal with our broken programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

Unless we are happy with the Tax Code that wastes economic resources, that stifles job creation, and promotes crony capitalism, we cannot delay genuine tax reform. So we have an opportunity. We do not have to speculate on what bipartisan tax reform looks like. We do not have to speculate. We do not have to start from scratch. That is because in 2010 two separate bipartisan commissions recommended lowering the rates and broadening the base and eliminating a lot of tax expenditure deductions and credits which, in order to get the revenue the Federal Government needs to operate every time we grant a new tax expenditure, deduction or credit, what it means is we need to raise marginal tax rates, the percentage of tax people need to pay out of their net worth. Why is that important?

Because the higher we raise marginal tax rates, it operates as a disincentive on small businesses and individuals whom we are depending upon to grow jobs. Many small businesses do not operate as a corporation, a big C corporation, they operate as a subchapter S corporation. They operate as a sole proprietorship or a partnership. The point is they pay business incomes, the people who run those small businesses, they pay flowthrough income on a personal tax return not on a corporate tax return.

So higher marginal rates disincentivize these smaller businesses from spending money to hire new staff or to start or expand their existing business. That is why keeping marginal rates down low for as long as we can for everybody is so important. Yet before we get to this important point of dealing with our broken Tax Code, before we can implement this, support this sort of comprehensive tax reform that they did in 1986 with President Reagan and Democrats in Congress, we need to stop America from driving off the fiscal cliff.

If we do not act between now and the end of the year, Republicans and Democrats alike, we will see the single largest tax increase in American history. How is that possible? As you know, the so-called Bush tax provisions that were passed are getting ready to expire. Those only lasted for 10 years.

In 2010, President Obama agreed with Republicans and our Democratic friends agreed with us. As a matter of fact, the extension of the so-called Bush tax rates was passed with 81 votes in the Senate in 2010. At the time, President Obama made what I thought was a perfectly sensible observation. He said, in 2010, with the economy growing so slowly, with economic growth down around 3 percent, which was producing high unemployment because the economy was not growing fast enough, he said: It make no sense to raise taxes during that kind of fragile economic recovery. That makes me wonder what has changed between now and 2010, except for the fact that economic growth is even slower. The economy is even worse today than it was in 2010.

President Obama has said—contrast what he said in 2010. He said: Raising taxes will help solve our long-term debt problems. He says: Raising taxes will help us solve our long-term debt problems. But it is hard to take that argument seriously if we look at it closely.

First, according to the President's own Treasury Department, the tax increases he is advocating would generate about $85 billion a year in new net revenue. These tax increases would generate about $85 billion in new net revenue. By comparison, the monthly budget deficit in October was $120 billion. The President says raised taxes would generate $85 billion; Treasury is saying $85 billion doesn't close the gap to $120 billion, which is the current level of monthly deficits.

As we know, the Federal Government has run annual deficits in excess of $1 trillion for at least each of the last 4 years, leading to a $16 trillion national debt, roughly the size of our entire economy. These are dangerous waters we are navigating. The President has argued that we need to raise taxes, but he has not provided a prescription for closing the gap between what the Federal Government spends and what we take in, even with these tax increases. He has proposed nothing, absolutely nothing to deal with our unsustainable entitlement programs so we can keep the promise we have made to our seniors that when they qualify for Medicare and Social Security, those programs will be there for them.

I don't believe we can tax our way back to budget surpluses and economic prosperity. I am not a Ph.D. in economics, but I do think it is a matter of common sense to say that we cannot tax our way back into prosperity without a major reining in of Federal spending and entitlement reforms, which will continue to run up huge deficits, which cumulatively will add to that $16 trillion of debt. That will happen regardless what we do on the revenue side, which is the only part of that equation the President has addressed so far.

That brings me to my second point. Nearly 4 years after President Obama was sworn in—4 years after he was first sworn in—he has not yet given us a realistic plan for dealing with the deficit and debt reduction. You might say: Well, he was unwilling to stick his toe into those difficult waters knowing he was going to have to run for election again because all of this is controversial, no question about it, on both sides of the aisle.

I would think now that the President has been reelected for another 4 years and he doesn't have to stand before the voters again, he would feel flexibility, he would feel as though he has the political freedom to try to address this problem in a bipartisan way.

Last February Secretary Geithner told the Republican chairman of the House Budget Committee, ''We're not coming before you to say we have a definitive solution to our long-term problem. What we do know is we don't like yours.'' That strikes me as a strange response given the responsibility we all have to protect the interests of our country and the American people when it comes to keeping us on a sound economic path and hopefully putting America back to work.

It is easy in a campaign season for the President to talk about the need for a ''balanced approach'' when it comes to the budget. Of course, we all have our own ideas about how that balance should be struck, but a truly balanced approach would include reining in Federal spending and preserving and protecting Social Security and Medicare. As a matter of political reality, it should include revenue, and our side of the aisle has identified ways that additional revenue might be put on the table, but that is simply not enough by itself to address the whole problem and is not a serious proposal in terms of solving the complex economic situation in which we find ourselves.

There is nothing balanced, though, about continuing to spend money we don't have and piling up trillions of dollars in new debt. It is irresponsible for our generation to impose on the generation of these young people sitting in front of me the debt they are going to have to pay. We are kidding ourselves if we think there is not a price to be paid for spending money we don't have. We ought to be big enough, we ought to be responsible enough to these young people, to our constituents, and to the American people to deal with this in a responsible way. That doesn't mean threatening America with a recession and almost 1 million people being put out of work if we drive off the fiscal cliff. It strikes me as the height of irresponsibility for the President or anyone else to say: If I don't get what I want, we are going to put America into a recession.

Can you believe that? It is completely irresponsible.

If the President is going to claim a mandate for governing, then he has a responsibility to offer a genuine solution to America's fiscal challenges. I am not saying he is going to offer a

plan that this side of the aisle is going to embrace, but what it does is it begins the negotiations we know we have to engage in between the different sides of the argument to try to come up with that 80/20 proposition, that we can actually address these problems and leave some of our other fights and differences for a future day.

Unless the President offers a plan, his posturing over the national debt cannot be taken seriously. And if he threatens that ''if I don't get what I want, we are going to go off the cliff and put America in recession and Americans out of work,'' that is irresponsible and I submit it would be a violation of the oath of office.

A few final thoughts.

None of us came to Washington to try to play small ball. We came here to try to do important work. I accept the fact that 100 Senators from every part of the country, from all political philosophies came here because they wanted to do the right thing for their constituents and the American people. I would stipulate to that. Granted, we all have different philosophies of government and the role of government that might lead us in different directions. That is what our debate is all about. It is irresponsible for anyone to suggest that we should not tackle these problems in an open, transparent, and responsible sort of way.

Why would we want to play small ball? Why would we want to refuse to tackle the Nation's most serious fiscal problems? Why would we want to continue to see 23 million Americans either out of work or underemployed, with people taking part-time jobs because they can't find full-time employment? Of course, more Americans back to work means more people who actually pay taxes, which is part of the solution to closing that gap between what we spend and what we bring in.

I realize and I don't want to minimize the importance of the daunting challenges we face. We were sent here to face them, not go hide under our desk, not say: Well, I don't want to do that; I don't want to vote on that issue because I might get an opponent in the next election. I believe these enormous challenges are enormous opportunities in disguise. I admit I come from Texas and we are optimists by nature. We believe that for every challenge, every complication, every problem, somewhere in there is an opportunity for us to deal responsibly and in an accountable sort of way to our constituents to pass the long-overdue reforms that would balance our budget, revitalize our economy, restore American competitiveness, and put Americans back to work.

None of us came here to play small ball. We now have a momentous opportunity to maybe swallow a little bit of our pride, to show a little humility, maybe. Something you don't think of when you think about politicians is humility. But I think we all have to realize the hand we have been dealt, not look back and keep pointing the finger of blame. We need to say that this is the hand we have been dealt, this is the job we have volunteered for and gotten a vote of confidence in the election that our constituents have enough confidence in us that we will act responsibly and not kick the can down the road and make the price for our inaction and irresponsibility paid for by the American people or these young people who sit here before me. I hope we seize that opportunity. I want to be part of the solution. I am willing to cast tough votes, and I am willing to stand before my constituents and say: You know what, we had to solve this problem. As long as people are still engaged in campaigning rather than governing, as long as we are playing to the television audiences and the peanut gallery rather than trying to solve these problems, we won't do it. But I hope we will seize it. I am optimistic we will.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE FISCAL CLIFF

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, in less then 2 months, American taxpayers are set to experience one of the largest tax increases in American history. With the elections behind us, it is time for us to work together to reach an agreement that can pass both chambers of Congress and be signed by the President.

Reaching an agreement won't be easy, but it must be done to avoid going head first off the fiscal cliff. By this time we are all aware of the Congressional Budget Office warning that failing to come together threatens to send us into another recession.

An agreement is certainly doable, but all we hear about is what revenues Republicans are willing to put on the table.

We need to hear what the President and my colleagues on the other side are prepared to tackle in regard to reforming entitlements that are the long-term drivers of our fiscal problems.

That being said, we will not be able to reach an agreement if the other side continues to insist on punishing entrepreneurs and small businesses in the name of raising taxes on the ''wealthy.''

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem to believe that tax increases, particularly on high-income individuals, do not matter. They argue that raising taxes on the so-called wealthy will return us to the economic growth experienced at the height of the 1990s.

This defies common sense. If you ask a business owner if raising his taxes will hinder his ability to grow his business, he assuredly will tell you they will. He understands that the more the government takes from him, the less he has to put back into his business.

This is in line with the general understanding around here that taxes can be used as both a carrot and a stick to affect behavior. If you want to discourage behavior you impose a tax. If you want to encourage behavior you provide a tax incentive.

For example, the excise tax on cigarettes has been increased to reduce the number of people smoking. A tax has been imposed on individuals for not purchasing insurance, so more will. Our tax code is littered with tax incentives to get people to do more of the things we like and less of the things we don't like. Individuals and businesses have and do respond to these incentives.

Yet, if we are to believe the other side, when it comes to marginal income tax rates the influence of taxes ceases to exist. According to them, we can raise income taxes on the wealthy as high as we want with no ill effects for jobs and the economy.

Well I have news for my colleagues; high marginal tax rates influence many factors that contribute to economic growth. Capital accumulation and the availability of a well trained labor force are two important factors influenced by taxes. Just as an increase in the excise tax on cigarettes leads to fewer packs of cigarettes being purchased, increasing taxes on capital reduces capital accumulation. Likewise, the more you tax labor the fewer hours worked you will get. In other words, taxes matter.

Some of my colleagues on the other side have pointed to a Congressional Research Service report they claim proves raising the top marginal tax rate does not impact economic growth. There has been ample criticism of this one analysis that I will not go into here.

But, even if one gives any credence to this one analysis, it must be viewed in light of a larger body of economic research that indicates higher taxes do hinder economic growth.

This research confirms that high marginal rates reduce the hours worked and are a disincentive to small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Among this research is a 2007 study by Christina Romer that found that a tax increase of 1 percent of GDP reduces economic growth by as much as 3 percent. According to this study, tax increases have such a substantial effect on economic growth because of the ''powerful negative effect of tax increases on investment.''

The last thing we need to do now is discourage business investment. Business investment has been stagnate. This has directly contributed to slower economic growth than in past economic recoveries. It has also contributed to weak job creation and wage growth.

Raising marginal tax rates on entrepreneurs and business owners, thereby reducing their after-tax rate of return is not the answer.

We need to give entrepreneurs and business owners the certainty they need to start investing again.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has issued several reports analyzing how different forms of taxation impact economic growth. This OECD research found that income taxes significantly impact economic growth.

According to this research, the most damaging tax was the corporate income tax followed by the individual income tax. The study further noted that highly progressive individual income tax rates are negatively associated with economic growth.

The United States of course relies extensively on both corporate and individual income taxes. Our corporate rate of 35 percent is the highest in OECD countries, which is bad in its own right. But a large number of American businesses are taxed at the individual rate, not the corporate rate. We also already have a highly progressive tax system. In fact, according to a 2008 OECD study we have ''the most progressive tax system and collect the largest share of taxes from the richest 10 percent of the population.''

Currently, the top individual rate of 35 percent is the same as the top corporate rate. Starting in 2013, if the President has his way, the top rate goes up to 39.6 percent with the second highest rate scheduled to go up to 36 percent from 33 percent. When you consider the effects of the personal exemption phase-out and limitation on itemized deductions, the marginal effective tax rate jumps to over 41 percent.

These tax increases will hinder the growth of small businesses, and of course, slower business growth means slow job growth.

Evidence of this is documented by a 2001 study available from the National Bureau of Economic Research. This study looked at how the marginal rate cuts in the 1986 tax reform affected the growth of small firms.

The study showed that businesses that experienced the largest marginal rate cuts saw their businesses grow the fastest. Conversely, the study concluded that when marginal tax rates go up, the growth of small businesses goes down.

Similarly, a 2005 study conducted by the Small Business Administration found that ''lower marginal rates on entrepreneurial income encourage more entrepreneurial entry and lower rates of exit, and lengthen the duration of spells of activity.'' This means that if my colleagues are successful in raising the top two marginal rates there will be less entrepreneurial activity. Fewer people will seek to start their own business and more current business owners will be looking to close up shop.

Further research confirms that high marginal tax rates leads to fewer hours worked. A 2008 study that appeared in the Journal of Monetary Economics and a 2004 study conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis examined how taxes impact the labor supply across time and across countries.

Both of these studies found that countries with higher marginal tax rates generally worked fewer hours. Conversely, those with low marginal rates worked more hours. In fact, these studies, controlling for other variables, found that the marginal tax rate accounted for the ''vast majority'' or ''preponderance'' of the difference in hours worked.

Research by economist Michael Keane has highlighted that high marginal rates have the biggest impact on labor over the long-run. This is because of the effect of marginal rates on lifetime decisions.

While a sudden increase in taxes may not lead to an immediate shift in current hours worked, it will impact future decisions.

For instance, higher marginal rates will discourage the accumulation of human capital through work experience and training. His review of research in this area further concluded that the effect of high marginal tax rates is especially pronounced when it comes to women's participation in the workforce.

There are many more examples of economic research that point to high tax rates hindering economic growth. For the sake of time, I am not going to go through all of them. Instead, I will ask unanimous consent to place a list of more than 20 studies in the RECORD. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but I believe these provide a good starting point for my colleagues who are interested in learning the truth about taxes.

In sum, this research suggests that soaking the rich through an ever more progressive tax code will only reduce incentives for work and entrepreneurship thereby reducing economic growth. It means that for a couple deciding whether or not a spouse who left the workforce should go back to work, taxes matter;

for an Individual who is considering investing in their own human capital through education or training to increase their earning potential, taxes matter;

for a small business owner considering hiring employees, purchasing equipment, or expanding their business, taxes matter;

for an entrepreneur deciding whether or not a business venture is worth pursuing, taxes matter.

Let me turn to another argument used by my colleagues on the other side to support increasing taxes. This argument is that tax increases on the ''wealthy'' are necessary to reduce the deficit and balance the budget.

The truth is there are not enough so-called rich people to make this happen. Based on 2009 tax returns, if you raised the top tax rate on income over $200,000 to 100 percent, you would still come short of covering the the $1.1 trillion budget deficit for fiscal year 2012.

This back of the envelope calculation assumes that people will not work less or engage in tax planning or fraud to avoid such a confiscatory tax. I imagine my colleagues on the other side would even concede this would be the case with such a high rate.

For people out there who think they don't have to worry about the President's proposals because you are not wealthy, my message to you is this: You should be worried, because in order to tackle the deficit and pay for all his proposed new spending; the President will have to increase taxes on individuals well under $200,000.

The President of course claims that he wants a balanced approach to deficit reduction. He says we should do a combination of tax increases and spending cuts. So far he has been rather specific about his tax increases. However, he has not said much about entitlements that are going to be the main drivers of our national debt over the coming years and decades.

The President needs to lead in this area to get a serious discussion rolling. He needs to begin offering serious solutions, not just attacking those that have been offered up by Congressman RYAN in his budget proposal.

Given my tenure in Congress, I have learned to be skeptical when people around here start saying we will reduce the deficit by raising taxes now and cutting spending later. Especially when no specifics are articulated regarding what programs can be cut or what reforms they will accept for addressing entitlements. It's been my experience in these situations, the taxes always go up, but the spending cuts never happen.

Professor Vedder of Ohio University, who has studied tax increases and spending for more than two decades, confirms this in recent research. Professor Vedder looked at tax increases and spending spanning from the end of WW II through 2009 and discovered that ''each dollar of new tax revenue has been associated with $1.17 in new spending''.

If we are ever going to get a handle on the deficit, we are going to need to learn to live within our means. Spending as a percent of GDP has averaged about 20.5 percent since 1970. From 1998–2001, when we did balance the budget, spending as a percent of GDP averaged 18.5 percent. In fact we have never balanced the budget with spending as percent of GDP exceeding 20 percent. Spending under President Obama has averaged 24.5 percent of GDP. We must curtail our spending if we ever hope to balance the budget in the future.

Some around here insist that cutting spending will be as damaging, if not more so, than increasing taxes. They use the rationale of spending multipliers pushed by some economists that

suggest for every dollar of spending by the government we will get more than a dollar in economic activity.

This theory is deeply flawed. Even if we assume the government spends money wisely with no fraud, waste or abuse—and that is a big if—it means one less dollar to be spent by the private sector.

If this was solid economic theory our economy should be booming given all the money we have been spending around here. The truth is spending is not the solution to our problems, it is our problem. It is what got us into this mess in the first place.

For my colleagues who are still wedded to the idea that tax increases are preferable to spending cuts, I recommend reading a recent study by Harvard Economist Alberto Alesina. Given the fiscal shape of many countries, Professor Alesina studied the impact of spending and tax policies put in place to address fiscal imbalances.

His research concluded that ''fiscal adjustments based upon spending cuts are much less costly in terms of output losses than tax based ones. In particular, spending-based adjustments have been associated with mild and short-lived recessions, in many cases with no recession at all. Instead, tax-based adjustments have been followed by prolonged and deep recessions.''

This research paper comes on the heels of a paper he released in 2009. This paper similarly found that policies favoring spending cuts over tax increases are more likely to reduce the deficit.

In the words of Professor Alesina, fiscal adjustments ''based upon spending cuts and no tax increases are more likely to reduce deficits and debt over Gross Domestic Product ratios than those based upon tax increases.''

These studies confirm what through shear common sense Winston Churchill knew more than a half century ago, ''for a nation to try and tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.''

In the coming weeks, I hope to work with my colleagues and the President to reach a bipartisan agreement to help put our country back on sound fiscal footing. However, as I said in the beginning, it can't be just one side of the aisle that is expected to come to the table. My colleagues on the other side must be willing to put real reforms to address entitlements and our out of control spending on the table.

I ask unanimous consent the list to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

1. Alberto Alesina, Carlo Favero, and Francesco Giavazzi. ''The Output Effect of Fiscal Consolidations.'' National Bureau of Economic Research.

2. Michael Keane and Richard Rogerson. 2012. ''Micro and Macro Labor Supply Elasticities: A Reassessment of Conventional Wisdom.'' Journal of Economic Literature.

3. Michael Keane. 2011. ''Labor Supply and Taxes: A Survey,'' Journal of Economic Literature.

4. Christina D. Romer and David H. Romer. 2010. ''The Macroeconomic Effects of Tax Changes: Estimates Based on a New Measure of Fiscal Shocks,'' American Economic Review.

5. Robert Barro and Charles Redlick. 2010. ''Macroeconomic Effects from Government Purchases and Taxes,'' Mercatus Working Paper.

6. Andreas Bergh and Martin Karlsson. 2010. ''Government Size and Growth: Accounting for Economic Freedom and Globalization,'' Public Choice.

7. Andrew Mountford and Harold Uhlig. 2009. ''What Are the Effects of Fiscal Policy Shocks?'' Journal of Applied Econometrics.

8. Alberto Alesina and Silvia Ardagna. 2009. ''Large Changes in Fiscal Policy: Taxes vs. Spending,'' NBER Working Paper.

9. Jens Arnold. 2008. ''Do Tax Structures Affect Aggregate Economic Growth? Empirical Evidence From a Panel of OECD Countries.'' Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Working Paper.

10. Lee Ohanian, Andrea Raffo, and Richard Rogerson. 2008. ''Long-term Charges in Labor Supply and Taxes: Evidence from OECD Countries, 1956–2004,'' Journal of Monetary Economics.

11. Diego Romero-Ávila and Rolf Strauch. 2008. ''Public Finances and Long-Term Growth in Europe: Evidence from a Panel Data Analysis,'' European Journal of Political Economy.

12. Donald Bruce and Tami Gurley. 2005. ''Taxes and Entrepreneurial Activity: An Empirical Investigation Using Longitudinal Tax Return Data.'' Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy.

13. Edward Prescott. 2004. ''Why Do Americans Work So Much More Than Europeans?'' Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Quarterly Review.

14. Steven J. Davis and Magnus Henrekson. 2004. ''Tax Effects on Work Activity, Industry Mix and Shadow Economy Size: Evidence from Rich-Country Comparisons,'' National Bureau of Economic Research.

15. William M. Gentry and R. Glenn Hubbard. 2004. ''Success Taxes, Entrepreneurial Entry, and Innovation,'' National Bureau of Economic Research.

16. Emanuela Cardia, Norma Kozhaya, and Francisco J. Ruge-Murcia. 2003. ''Distortionary Taxation and Labor Supply,'' Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking.

17. Olivier Blanchard and Roberto Perotti. 2002. ''An Empirical Characterization of the Dynamic Effects of Changes in Government Spending and Taxes on Output,'' Quarterly Journal of Economics.

18. Fabio Padovano and Emma Galli. 2002. ''Comparing the Growth Effects of Marginal vs. Average Tax Rates and Progressivity,'' European Journal of Political Economy.

19. Fabio Padovano and Emma Galli. 2001. ''Tax Rates and Economic Growth in the OECD Countries (1950–1990),'' Economic Inquiry.

20. Robert Carroll, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Mark Rider and Harvey S. Rosen. 1998. ''Entrepreneurs, Income Taxes, and Investment,'' National Bureau of Economic Research.

21. Eric Engen and Jonathan Skinner. 1996. ''Taxation and Economic Growth,'' National Tax Journal.

22. Nada Elissa. 1995. ''Taxation and Labor Supply of Married Women: The Tax Reform Act of 1986 as a Natural Experiment,'' National Bureau of Economic Research.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, November 26, it be in order for Senator SESSIONS or his designee to be recognized in order to raise a Budget Act point of order against the Reid for Tester amendment No. 2875 and that it be in order for Senator REID or his designee to make a motion to waive the point of order; further, that at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 26, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to waive, if raised; that if the motion to waive is successful, the Reid amendments Nos. 2876, 2877, 2878, and 2879 be withdrawn en bloc; the Reid for Tester substitute amendment No. 2875 be agreed to; that no further amendments or motions be in order prior to a vote on passage of S. 3525, as amended, with no intervening action or debate; and that if the motion to waive is not successful, Senator HARRY REID be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Madam President, we have had a number of individuals come to the floor over the last several months and say they want to move to the Defense authorization bill. So yesterday I said: Fine, let's move to it. What Senator LEVIN and Senator MCCAIN said they wanted are relevant amendments. I said: Fine, we will do it. But my friends can't take ''yes'' for an answer. So we will come back after a recess for Thanksgiving and look at it again, and maybe by then they will take ''yes'' for an answer.

If we are going to move to these bills and have amendments offered—that is what they want, and that is what I said they could do, so I don't fully understand the problem. But I am not filing cloture on a motion to proceed. I am not going to do that. It is an important bill. But I want the record to be very clear. I am not the cause. We are not the cause of this Defense authorization bill not being brought to the floor. I have agreed to do it, as I was requested to do by both Senator LEVIN and Senator MCCAIN.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey.

SUPERSTORM SANDY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise to celebrate the people of New Jersey, many of whom lost everything in Superstorm Sandy but who came through one of the most devastating storms in our State's history battered but not broken.

The storm struck New Jersey with extraordinary force. It was the entry point of Superstorm Sandy, and the surge came quickly, destroying whole

communities, taking homes from their foundations, changing the topography of the coastline, devastating some of the most densely populated communities in the country, taking lives and taking property, leaving New Jerseyans without power but not powerless, without the personal possessions accumulated over a lifetime but with their families and their memories intact. Their memories are the foundation upon which New Jerseyans are recovering and rebuilding their lives and their communities. They are rebuilding with the help of FEMA and other Federal agencies, including the American Red Cross and countless volunteers from around the country, State and local officials,working overtime to help. New Jersey will come back stronger and better, and we are more determined than ever to rebuild and restore our communities to where they were.

The people of New Jersey withstood the unbridled power of nature—the power of nature strengthened by man-made climate change—to create an unprecedented storm and unprecedented damage. I wish to share with my colleagues some of the photos showing the devastation and why New Jersey needs a strong Federal partner if we hope to rebuild.

As my colleagues can see, Sandy mixed all forms of transportation with a force we haven't seen in many years. This is a shipping container and a large pleasure boat tossed onto the Morgan rail bridge on the North Jersey coastline along with tons of debris. The photo shows the container from the shipping lines and the boat on a bridge that obviously was a rail bridge.

You can see, we have a lot of work to do with scenes like this up and down the coast.

In this photograph, you can see the kind of damage that our rail lines have suffered—heaved from the railroad beds and buckled. This again is along the north Jersey coastline, which had miles of track damaged just like this, as shown in this photograph, and in need of millions of dollars in repairs.

In fact, 40 percent of the Nation's transit riders from Washington to Boston had their service interrupted. Dozens and dozens of New Jersey Transit's locomotives and rail cars were damaged by flooding. So today I am proud to announce that we expedited $25 million in transportation funding to help ease that situation.

But some commuters into New York, for example, from my home State of New Jersey are still suffering 4-hour commutes, with rail service only about half of what it normally is, largely because there still is not enough power for all the trains.

In the meantime, New Jersey has added subsidized ferry service to make up the difference, with the Federal Department of Transportation providing over 300 buses to help serve those new ferry lines, including one out of Liberty State Park.

Here is another photograph of the extraordinary power of Sandy's surge that lifted boats on to a rail bridge along the north Jersey coastline. Amazingly, through the hard work of New Jersey Transit workers, this devastated rail line might be able to resume limited service by the end of this week.

But this line, like many other commuter lines in New Jersey, will need much more extensive work to get service levels back to normal and to make more permanent repairs to ensure long-term reliability.

But beyond the transportation damage, it is important to remember that some lost everything in the storm and some lost their lives. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families who lost loved ones to Super Sandy.

I toured some of the worst hit areas with President Obama and Governor Christie and spoke to New Jerseyans who suffered extraordinary loss and were hit the hardest.

Some of these photos I am about to show now I took myself. They may not be the best photographs and I may not be the best photographer, but they show a small part of the overall destruction my State has suffered.

You can see in this photograph from the Coast Guard plane I was aboard some of the destruction at Sandy Hook, NJ. These homes are deeply under water, many of them rendered impossible to return to for a significant period of time. There are other homes I will show you where people cannot return to what was their home.

This is a photograph of the flooding in the Mantoloking area north of Seaside Heights that submerged cars and caused millions of dollars of damage and thousands to be displaced from their homes. This bridge actually collapsed at the end there, leaving this whole section in difficulty in terms of exit off the barrier islands.

I took the next two photographs while touring northern New Jersey. I have shown most of the pictures from the shore area, which took the hardest hit, because that was the entry point largely for Superstorm Sandy, but it was not just along the shore. Here is an example of the type of flooding that took place in Hoboken, NJ. On the night of the storm, this flooding was just beginning, and it only got worse, so much so that it took the National Guard to rescue residents from their homes, days—days—after the storm. It filled the streets with overflow from sewage plants. Gasoline was reeking in the air—a danger to the health and well-being of residents. And it made the damage even worse than anyone had imagined possible.

The next photograph I took is of Observer Highway. This is a major thoroughfare between two significant parts of the metropolitan area, between the city of Hoboken and the city of Jersey City, the second largest city in our State. I cannot remember ever seeing the area so expansively under water, and I hope to never see it again.

All of these cars were floating, some of them crashing into each other, rendered largely useless, and, of course, stopping a major thoroughfare for days in terms of anybody being able to get through.

And if the images do not give you a sense of the destruction and the loss families have suffered, then this next photograph encapsulates the power of the storm to take away all that people had worked for all of their lives. It is in the faces of the people I met.

Here in Pleasantville, NJ, which is right outside Atlantic City along a section there, the mayor of Pleasantville took me to meet a series of residents whose homes had been ripped apart.

In this picture, I am standing outside of the person's home, almost as if it were a dollhouse, looking in. I would love to have said that it was only this poor gentleman, but it was an entire community where homes had been ripped apart and you could see into their homes. It shows the nature of, the breadth and scope of, the devastation.

It is not that this gentleman lost a shingle, it is that he lost the whole side of his home, now exposed to the elements and, of course, everything ripped apart.

The other aspect about this picture, in addition to the incredible destruction, is the resiliency. When I went to share my sentiments and my concern with this gentleman, he asked me: How are you doing, Senator? I said: Well, sir, what is more important is, how are you doing? He said: I'm doing fine. I'm here, I'm alive, and I still have part of my home.

So sometimes when we think about how difficult our lives might be at any given moment, I think about this gentleman and the extraordinary resiliency he has had in the midst of probably one of the most difficult times in his life. And there are so many other New Jerseyans whom I met like that.

I met a young woman in Hoboken whose entire basement apartment was flooded—totally gone. She lost everything she had worked for in her young professional life. In the midst of that tragedy for her, she was at a shelter, running the shelter, helping everybody else who had been displaced—some not as badly as her, not thinking about her tomorrow, but thinking about her fellow citizens in Hoboken, NJ.

I met some poor families who were not badly affected by the storm who opened their homes and their kitchen tables to individuals who were their neighbors who were hurt very badly. And even though they did not have a lot to put around the kitchen table, they were sharing what they had.

I saw citizens risk their own lives to save their neighbors' lives in the rushing water and heard their accounts. So I saw the better angels of people in the midst of a storm.

The fact is, despite the damage and displacement, the human suffering and loss of property, possessions, personal photographs and family memories, the people of New Jersey held together.

Neighbors came together to help one another. As much as they were shaken and mourned their own loss, they worked together to help each other, to save each other, to begin the recovery, to get New Jersey back on its feet, and Federal, State, and local governments were there to help.

The Federal response was quick, and it was effective, but there is still so much more that we need to do, and still more that we can do to help those families who are still without shelter, still without a place to return to, to call home, and without a clear picture of what the future holds.

The storm was unprecedented in the breadth of its devastation. While our shoreline was hard hit, that does not begin to describe the full impact. Some of our Nation's most densely populated communities were also hit very hard, requiring one of the biggest rescue and recovery efforts we have seen. A response that size, obviously, takes time, but we acted quickly and will continue to do what needs to be done.

After surveying Sandy's damage with President Obama and Governor Christie on October 31, Senator LAUTENBERG and I called for increased support from the Federal Government to deal with the cost of response efforts.

In a letter to the President, we asked that the Federal share for disaster response be increased from the standard 75 percent to a much higher possibly 100 percent because of the devastating impact of what meteorologists have called a perfect storm.

The President initially issued a disaster declaration for eight New Jersey counties and, along with Senator LAUTENBERG, we requested additional counties be included, and they were.

Before walking with the President and the Governor through Brigantine, NJ, I had an opportunity to tour the destruction in Pleasantville, Hoboken, Jersey City, and communities in Bergen County. What I saw was unlike anything I had ever seen in my lifetime in those communities.

I am very grateful that the President came to New Jersey with the full force of the Federal Government to see and to respond firsthand to the devastation the hurricane left in its wake.

I have proudly lived in New Jersey all of my life, and seeing the Garden State in ruin is heartbreaking. The shore of my youth is gone. Much of it lies in the ocean for the ages. But it made me realize that, in times of tragedy, in times of storms like Sandy, we need government at all levels to come together, all of us rolling up our sleeves to help our neighbors recover and rebuild and reclaim their lives. We need to make certain that we secure all of the resources necessary to help New Jersey, and every community affected by this horrible storm, to rebuild and emerge stronger than before.

Since the storm, I have requested emergency funding for New Jersey's transportation network—highways, rail lines, ports, and airports—that was devastated by the storm.

I asked the President and Secretary LaHood for emergency funds to repair highways and bridges and to expedite assistance to all impacted modes of transportation.

I called on the President to dispatch emergency fuel and power supplies to New Jersey to ease the fuel shortage and to keep emergency vehicles running in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

To ensure critical infrastructure—water treatment and sanitation facilities—we received the help of the Army Corps of Engineers to have these facilities remain operable.

The Federal Government also responded with $10 million in emergency funding, with some of those critical transportation needs, freed up 2 million gallons of fuel from the Northeast Oil Reserve, and the EPA took action that rerouted this fuel to New Jersey when it needed it the most.

The Federal response also included a grant for New Jersey to hire 1,000 workers to help communities clean up from the storm.

But, despite all of that, many families in my State are still suffering. They have lost much, and many are displaced, some permanently, from their homes. That is why I have called for the immediate suspension of foreclosures and evictions for all New Jersey homeowners who faced financial difficulties before the storm and now are suffering additional difficulties in the wake of it; and for swift action to expand emergency mortgage payment relief to all New Jersey homeowners who have lost income as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

That is why we must work to give them certainty of what the Federal Government will do to help them rebuild their lives so they can make critical decisions as to their futures.

What I take away from this experience is the fact that we are all in this together, one community, each of us dependent on the other—each of us working to rebuild and recover for the benefit of all of us in New Jersey, but I believe all of us in the country.

That is what community is all about. It is the heart of our motto: E Pluribus Unum; From Many, One. We have just gone through an election at the heart of which we debated the role of government in our lives. I would submit we need to focus on what government does to rebuild the spirit of community that we have seen in action in the aftermath of this devastating storm.

Americans across the country were riveted by the stories of the immediate aftermath of the storm—the pictures of communities under water, homes moved blocks down the road, homes and trains blocking Federal highways, hospitals closed, gas lines miles long, people waiting hours for fuel to run generators and keep their homes heated, weeks of fuel rationing, and no transit or Amtrak service for the entire region for people to get to work or visit their families.

Without a doubt, those have been trying times for New Jersey. But now, just because those scenes may no longer be showing in living rooms across the country does not mean that the recovery is over.

Thousands of families are still displaced from their homes and will be for months to come.

Transit lines are still out. Community infrastructure still has to be rebuilt. Now is not the time for the Federal Government to walk away. It is more crucial now than ever for the Federal Government to help devastated communities rebuild, help families get the assistance they need to repair their homes, and put their lives back together.

I for one will not rest until the rebuilding is done. This is one country, the United States of America. That is why, when there was destruction in New Orleans with Katrina, in Florida, in Joplin, or crop destruction in the Midwest, I came along with other colleagues to support those communities. I viewed it as my time to stand with my fellow Americans in distress.

Now it is time for my fellow Americans to stand with New Jersey. New Jersey has been battered, but we are not broken. We are stronger and more united in our efforts to work together to recover, rebuild, and recommit ourselves to uniting around our common concerns and shared values rather than divided by our differences. That is the lesson we learned. And together we will rebuild and the Garden State will bloom once again.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OVERSIGHT ON ENERGY DRINKS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, over the past few years we have seen a dramatic increase in the sale of energy drinks in America. Energy drinks are now common fixtures in grocery stores, vending machines, gas stations, convenience stores, and everywhere we turn. They target young people with flashy ads and names such as Monster and Rock Star and with claims to increase attention stamina and even to help with weight loss. According to one study, 30 to 50 percent of adolescents, teenagers, consume energy drinks.

Sadly, as the sale of energy drinks has grown, so has the alarming evidence that these energy drinks pose a potential threat to our Nation's health. Yesterday, the New York Times featured an article that found that the Food and Drug Administration has received 13 adverse event reports for people who died—who died—after consuming 5-hour ENERGY drinks. Just

last month, news reports found that five people died—five—after consuming Monster Energy drinks.

This last May, I met the mother and family of 14-year-old Anais Fournier from Maryland. This lovely young teenager lost her life last December when she went into cardiac arrest—caused by caffeine toxicity—after she drank two—two—24-ounce Monster Energy drinks in less than 24 hours. Anais was an honor student. She was a good student and a great writer, and she used to watch movies with her mom.

An American Academy of Pediatrics study recommends adolescents consume no more than 100 milligrams of caffeine each day. Remember the number—100 milligrams a day. According to Consumer Reports, a 24-ounce can of Monster Energy drink contains 276 milligrams of caffeine, almost three times the amount this academy recommends as the limit an adolescent would consume in a day—276 milligrams in less than 24 hours. Anais Fournier consumed 552 milligrams of caffeine by drinking two Monster Energy drinks within 24 hours. That is the equivalent of drinking 16 12-ounce Coca-Cola sodas.

Mounting evidence shows that tragic stories such as the one involving Anais Fournier are becoming more common. A recent report by SAMHSA shows that energy drinks pose potentially serious health risks. Emergency room visits due to energy drinks have increased tenfold between 2005 and 2009—1,128 ER visits in 2005 to 13,114 emergency room visits in 2009 linked to energy drinks in America.

There are serious health concerns about ingesting high levels of caffeine in energy drinks and, I might also add, many added ingredients that are also stimulants and contain even additional caffeine that is added to the drinks. The Food and Drug Administration currently limits the level of caffeine in soda—the kind you would buy over the counter—to no more than 71 milligrams in a 12-ounce can. Remember the number for the 24-ounce can of Monster—276? That is almost four times the limit of what can be sold legally as a beverage regulated by the FDA in America.

Let me show this 5-hour ENERGY picture. I really don't have to show it. Everyone is pretty familiar with it because they are everywhere—literally everywhere. I watched on television last week when they were advertising promotions of 5-hour ENERGY drinks saying, in the commercials, that some of the sales would go to promote research for breast cancer. There is almost the suggestion there is something healthy about this product.

Well, let's talk about that for a moment. Compare that limit of 71 milligrams of caffeine in a 12-ounce can of soda or pop to the 215 to 242 milligrams of caffeine in the small 2-ounce bottle of 5-hour ENERGY or the 135 milligrams in a 12-ounce can of Monster Energy. Some energy drinks contain 300 milligrams of caffeine in a 12-ounce serving. As we all know, most energy drinks are not sold in 12-ounce cans. They are sold in 16-, 24-, and 32-ounce cans. Two 24-ounce Monster Energy drinks took the life of Anais Fournier.

These drinks, of course, contain more than caffeine. We don't know all the products included, but they include many other stimulants, such as guarana and ginseng. The FDA has the authority to regulate caffeine levels in beverages and to require beverage manufacturers, such as soda pop, to prove additives are safe. But most energy drinks, such as 5-hour ENERGY, avoid the FDA's regulation and oversight by marketing their products not as beverages but as dietary supplements.

We will not see it on the front of this little container. We have to flip it around and look down at the bottom, and in the tiniest lettering we see dietary supplement. Why? Because as a dietary supplement they are not regulated. They can sell what they like. And, unfortunately, they sell products that contain so much caffeine they are dangerous.

Now, my colleague, Senator BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut, who is on the Senate floor tonight, and I have sent the Food and Drug Administration letters three times calling on this agency to take action to ensure caffeine levels and ingredients in energy drinks are safe, particularly for kids. We have urged the agency to issue final guidance distinguishing beverages and liquid dietary substances to close the loopholes that allow some energy drinks to avoid FDA oversight. We have called on that agency to regulate energy drinks that have caffeine levels well above the 71 milligrams per 12-ounce threshold in soft drinks.

Today, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I asked FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg to personally meet with us after Thanksgiving to discuss the steps the FDA is taking to ensure the safety of energy drinks. Every other week we are seeing mounting evidence that energy drinks pose safety risks. We learn about young people hospitalized or seriously hurt after consuming what they are marketing as innocent little energy pick-me-ups.

We look forward to working with Commissioner Hamburg to discuss the Food and Drug Administration's strategy to protect our children and to protect everyone in America from these dietary supplements, whether it is 5-Hour Energy or the Monster Energy drink that led to the death of this 14-year-old girl in Maryland.

It has been many years since I came to this floor and argued about dietary supplements. We all know what is involved. I always preface my remarks by saying: When I got up this morning, I took my vitamin pill, and I took my fish oil pill. I believe I should have the right to do that. I don't know if it helps, but I think it does, and I shouldn't have to have a prescription to have a vitamin pill. Enough said. But when it comes to dietary supplements that go beyond that type of supplement, things that include dramatic increases in caffeine, we have to take the next step.

I managed a few years ago to pass a law—over some objection—that requires the makers of dietary supplements to report adverse events. In other words, if people call from getting sick—or worse—from your product, you have to tell the FDA so we can gather this together and pick up any trends that are alarming or worrisome. Well, they have been doing it but not as vigilantly as they should, and the companies have not been reporting them as often as they should. But now we know, as I said at the outset of my remarks, that young people and others are dying from these energy drinks, 5-Hour Energy drinks and Monster Energy drinks. They died after they ingested these, and it has raised serious questions as to whether there was causation between them.

To find there were 13 adverse-event reports for people who died after consuming 5-Hour Energy drinks and 5 people who died after consuming these Monster Energy drinks—for goodness' sakes, these are for sale to kids across America. We wouldn't sell these kids alcohol over the counter without asking how old they were, whether they reached an age where they are eligible to buy alcohol products, but we are selling products that could be more lethal than alcohol to these young kids without the necessary oversight and supervision.

I thank the Senator from Connecticut for joining me in this effort. We have to continue it. The New York Times yesterday made a report that I think puts us on notice. There is a lot more to be done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am very honored to stand with my distinguished colleague from Illinois on this vitally important issue. I thank him for his leadership, and I am very proud to work with him on a problem that really shows dramatically that neglect and disregard by government regulators and enforcers can have real-life consequences.

The FDA has, very simply, failed to address this issue, and I believe it has failed even to respond to the alarms Senator DURBIN and I have sounded on this issue.

Yesterday the New York Times featured an article reporting that the Food and Drug Administration received 13 adverse-event reports of fatalities following the consumption of 5-Hour Energy, which is a highly caffeinated energy shot. But this report is really only the latest of a series of reports that two popular energy drinks—Monster Energy and 5-Hour Energy—have been cited in deaths and injury. These drinks have been cited in reports of dozens of serious adverse

events such as heart attacks and convulsions. And these events are not the only concern that has been raised about energy drinks. I will cite a few.

A report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that the number of emergency room visits due to energy drinks increased tenfold between 2005 and 2009, from 1,128 to 13,114 visits.

More recently, a study of energy drinks by Consumer Reports found that some energy drinks contain high levels of caffeine—in some cases, twice as much as a cup of coffee.

The Consumer Reports study found that labels of many energy drinks completely failed to disclose how much caffeine is contained, and, even worse, 5 of the 16 drinks Consumer Reports studied contained more than 20 percent more caffeine than what was stated on the label.

These reports are profoundly and deeply troubling, and the FDA—the agency in charge of regulating the safety of these products—needs to determine whether energy drinks are safe and, if necessary, take action about their safety.

Senator DURBIN and I have written two letters—one on September 11, the other on October 26 of this year—calling on the agency to take action addressing the rising public health concerns around energy drinks and to protect consumers. Have we heard anything back? Nothing. No response.

In today's letter, we reiterate our request for the FDA to investigate the interactions between caffeine and stimulants in energy drinks, to assess the health risks associated with caffeine consumption by children and adolescents, and to finalize and issue guidance that clearly distinguishes liquid dietary supplements from beverages. This issue is as profoundly and deeply important as the combination of caffeine and alcohol, which Attorneys General addressed during the time I held that job in the State of Connecticut. Alcohol makers, to their credit, did the right thing and addressed it on their own. Here, the industry has failed in that obligation. The FDA has not just an opportunity but an obligation to address this issue.

I also believe the FDA has failed to consider the shifting trends in caffeine consumption more generally and broadly that is shown by the energy drink industry, particularly shifting trends in consumption among adolescents. The industry has marketed relentlessly and repeatedly, which accounts for that dramatic statistic Senator DURBIN cited that 30 to 50 percent of adolescents are known and reported to be using these drinks. Marketing and that trend have a clear connection. It is no accident that caffeine consumption and the consumption of these energy drinks is increasing.

But the FDA's determination of safe levels of caffeine seems to be based on what is safe for adult consumption, not adolescent. It does not consider consumption patterns among young people or take into account safe levels of caffeine consumption among children. And these energy drinks are marketed to young people, including children. As an example, although the FDA states that adults can safely consume up to 400 milligrams of caffeine per day, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that adolescents consume no more than 100 milligrams per day—less than what is contained in one dose of an energy drink. And Consumer Reports recommends that children consume no more than 45 to 85 milligrams per day, depending on their weight.

I wish to associate myself with the very persuasive and compelling remarks made by Senator DURBIN today. Again, his leadership on this issue has been so valuable.

I would close by making this point. There is a lot of rhetoric that is purportedly based on principle and conviction that somehow government rules and consumer protections are a frivolous nuisance or a burden without a benefit or an unwarranted intrusion in the free market. The experience that was dramatically portrayed in the hearing of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee today offers a tragic lesson on how compounding pharmacies and the failure of government regulators to act dispositively and promptly led to injuries and deaths across the country.

My colleague Senator ALEXANDER was present and very perceptively asked some of the most pointed questions this morning of the witnesses who came before us from the FDA and other government agencies, including the Massachusetts Board of Pharmacy. That lesson this morning ought to sound an alarm for us here because the New England compounding pharmacy in that instance was a known risk to both Federal and State regulators—the FDA and the Massachusetts Board of Pharmacy—and both failed to take effective action to protect the public.

The FDA in this instance has an obligation to protect the public and take action that will safeguard the health of our children and adolescents—the health of everyone—in light of the potential dangers posed by these energy drinks.

I close by again thanking my colleague from Illinois for being such a strong advocate of consumer interests and health in this area. I hope we will have a meeting soon, as we have requested, so that we can work together to make sure these products are labeled accurately and truthfully, marketed responsibly, and consumed safely.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

CHARACTER ATTACKS AGAINST AMBASSADOR SUSAN RICE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to say a word about the tragedy that occurred in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11 where we lost a dedicated ambassador and three other American lives. It was awful. It has been nearly a decade since we lost an ambassador in service to our country, and it is something we are looking at with a great deal of sadness and sorrow that these individuals who dedicated their lives to America were killed in the course of duty. But this has gone from a tragedy in Benghazi to a major political debate in America.

Part of it was explainable because it was in the closing days and weeks of a Presidential campaign when many times issues that don't reach national prominence become prominent because of the attention being paid to the candidates. And a lot has been said back and forth, and I have tried, as have other Members of Congress, to understand exactly what happened on September 11 in Benghazi. It is difficult because there wasn't a gathering of evidence immediately. Investigations were undertaken. It was chaotic at the scene that evening, and, sadly, many of the witnesses who could help us understand have disappeared into the night. But the effort has been undertaken to find out what occurred, to find out whether there was adequate protection for the Ambassador and his staff and, if not, what we should have done. I understand these tragedies require careful examination.

I was a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives when 235 U.S. marines died in a Marine Corps barracks bombing in Beirut, Lebanon. You bet we asked questions of the Reagan administration, as we should when we lose innocent American lives overseas as we did in Lebanon and as we did in Libya. What troubles me is the level the debate has reached. It has now reached a level of vilification and accusation which is unwarranted by the evidence.

This week we met in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a closed, classified setting and went through meticulously the timeline that led up to the death of the Ambassador and staff as well as what followed. It is being reported as it is being gathered, and there are additional reports that will be forthcoming.

Early next month we are expecting the Accountability Review Board of the Department of State to issue its report. We know, following that, other committees of jurisdiction—the Intelligence Committee, Foreign Relations Committee, and others—will certainly call in witnesses and ask questions, as they should, as they must.

What troubles me is that on the floor of the Senate during the course of this week, there have been accusations made of individuals that have gone far beyond anything the evidence could suggest.

We owe it to the cause of justice and to the lives that were lost to do this professionally and honestly, without political rancor. The President was right yesterday when he said of our U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, she ''has

done exemplary work. She has represented the United States and our interests in the United Nations with skill and professionalism, with toughness and grace.'' And ''to go after the U.N. ambassador,'' he said, ''who had nothing to do with Benghazi, and was simply making a presentation based on intelligence she had received, and to besmirch her reputation is outrageous.''

I agree with him. We owe it to her and to everyone involved in every Federal agency to get the facts before us before we point a finger of blame. If there is blame, let us make certain it is apportioned to those who deserve it rather than to make wild charges against many others.

My good friend Senator JOHN MCCAIN—and he really is my friend; he and I debated on the floor many times—but he said something I want to quote from 2005, when there were criticisms of Condoleezza Rice who was being considered for the office of Secretary of State. He said, ''So I wonder why we are starting this new Congress with a protracted debate about a foregone conclusion. . . . I can only conclude we are doing this for no other reason than lingering bitterness at the outcome of the elections. . . . We all have varying policy views, but the President, in my view, has a clear right to put in place the team he believed would serve him best.''

I agree with Senator MCCAIN's statement. Let's get the facts together. Let us find out what truly occurred. Before we point the finger of blame on any person in our government, let's make certain we do so with the knowledge of the facts and the evidence that we can gather. We owe it to the Ambassador, his family, and all the others who were either injured or lost their lives in this occurrence.

I urge my colleagues to focus on the report due in December from the Accountability Review Board and to attend the hearings that will undoubtedly follow on this issue. We need a constructive discussion on how we can ensure that our brave diplomats can work effectively in some of the most dangerous parts of the world.

Susan Rice is a dedicated public servant who has tirelessly pursued the interests of the United States at the United Nations, ranging from sanctions on Iran to advancing the actual effort in the Security Council to oust former Libyan strongman Muammar Qaddafi. She deserves fair treatment, as everyone does in our government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I see the Senator from Louisiana. I know she expects to speak about 5:30. I want to say to her through the Chair I will be finished by then.

FUNGAL MENINGITIS

I see the Senator from Connecticut I believe is still here. I compliment him on his participation this morning in a hearing in which we both participated. It was a sad hearing, really. It was about the fungal meningitis—the Senator from Minnesota was there as well—the fungal meningitis outbreak that in our State, Tennessee, has become a nightmare. It has claimed thirteen lives, 81 very ill in many cases, and a thousand others who worry they might become ill.

It became obvious as we went through the discussion that something, incredibly, slipped through the cracks. We have more than 60,000 what I would call drugstores, pharmacies in the country; maybe more than a thousand in Tennessee. Many of them are doing this pharmaceutical compounding. You go in and get a prescription filled. They might adjust the prescription, or an FDA-approved drug based upon your prescription. That is normal and necessary. Then over here on the other side are the big manufacturers of drugs. As the Senator from Connecticut has pointed out, they are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

But then there are these entities in the middle, and there was one in Massachusetts that was apparently masquerading as a compounding pharmacy—it was really a drug manufacturer, but it was not complying with the rules of a drug manufacturer. As a result, it provided tainted medicine all over the country. Had it not been for remarkable work by the Tennessee Public Health Department in conjunction with Vanderbilt University and the Centers for Disease Control, there could have been many more deaths and many more injuries.

We saw an example of government. We saw an incompetent State Board of Pharmacy in Massachusetts, a confused Food and Drug Administration, and we saw a textbook model of what ought to be done by the Centers for Disease Control and the Tennessee Department of Health.

I am committed to work with Senator HARKIN, the chairman of our committee, and other members of our committee throughout the rest of this year on this issue. I hope the Senator from Minnesota and I, and the Senator from Connecticut, and Senators BURR and ROBERTS, who have been working on this for some time, can begin the new year with a bipartisan bill that can put somebody on the flagpole for this so we can continue, when we go to the hospital or go to the pharmacy or outpatient clinic, to not worry about whether the medicines we are receiving are tainted or unsafe.

I thought it was an excellent hearing. I look forward to working on it. I have some ideas about a model for this regulation.

I found as Governor years ago, if you give a committee responsibility for getting something done they often end up pointing fingers at each other. If you put somebody on the flagpole, it often gets done because you will know what happened. I think that is why Admiral Rickover created such a good system with nuclear submarines. We have never had a nuclear related death on a nuclear Navy submarine since the 1950s. I think I know why. It is because the Admiral interviewed every one of those captains of the submarines and the Navy made it clear to them if there was a problem with a nuclear reactor that went unfound or unfixed on their submarines their career was in deep trouble, and so we have never had any trouble.

WIND POWER

If I may move to another subject, there's been a lot of talk this week about the fiscal cliff. The President and Congressional leaders are meeting tomorrow, as they should, about how we can reduce our debt. That will require, in my judgment, reform of our entitlement programs. Saving our Medicare Program, for example. The average couple who is 65 years of age when they retire pays $119,000 into the Medicare Program. They will take out $357,000. That kind of program is not sustainable. For the next generation of older Americans there will not be a Medicare Program unless we work on that.

We need to work together to find a way to restrain entitlements, produce revenues if that is what is necessary, and come to a result. In the meantime we have to be saving money—42 cents out of every dollar we spend is borrowed—so that is what brings me to the floor today.

Supporters of wind power have used this week to proclaim it ''Wind Week'' in Washington, DC, launching an event to try to persuade us to extend one more time—this would be the eighth time—the Wind Production Tax Credit which, if we were to do so, just for 1 year, would cost another $12.1 billion over 10 years.

I want to suggest a different name for this week. Let's call it the ''Wind Down Wind Week.'' It is time to end a 20-year-old temporary subsidy that has already been renewed seven times. The reason is very simple. We can't afford it. The Joint Tax Committee says the 1-year extension will cost that $12.1 billion—but it is not just a 1-year extension. The developers of wind power will get the tax credit for 10 years. That is a lot of money. It is one-third of the Tennessee State budget. It is 2 times what we spend each year on energy research. This money could be used to help reduce the debt instead of fund this subsidy. The cost $12.1 billion is on top of the $16 billion in Federal subsidies and grants already given to wind developers and their Wall Street backers between 2009 and 2013, according to the Joint Tax Committee and the Unites States Treasury.

How can we justify this? We hear a lot about big oil. What about big wind? Big wind received, according to the Energy Information Agency, an $18.82 federal subsidy per megawatt hour—25 times per megawatt hour as all other forms of electricity production combined. Given our fiscal crisis we should

eliminate special tax breaks for big oil and big wind.

The big wind tax break was put in place in 1992. It was to be a temporary measure. It was intended to boost a new technology. Now, 20 years later, President Obama's respected Energy Secretary says wind is a mature technology. What do we have after 20 years and billions of dollars of subsidies? A puny amount of unreliable electricity. Our country uses nearly 25 percent of all the electricity in the world. Wind produces 3 percent of that. And of course it only produces electricity when the wind blows and it is not easy to store it. So it is of limited use in a country that needs huge amounts of low-cost, clean, reliable electricity. Relying on wind power is the energy equivalent of going to war in a sailboat when nuclear submarines are available.

The wind subsidy is so large that wind developers are now paying distributors to take their wind power, undercutting the baseload energy plants that are necessary to provide the reliable, low-cost electricity our country needs. On top of that, there are better ways to produce clean electricity, better ways than subsidizing a technology that destroys the environment in the name of saving the environment.

For example, it would take a row of 50-story wind turbines along the entire length of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, 2,178 miles, to equal the energy production of 4 nuclear reactors. The best way to produce cheap, clean energy in the United States is to let the marketplace do it. Let the marketplace produce large amounts of clean, reliable energy for all businesses and households—not to just subsidize jobs for a technology that can stand on its own and produces only a small amount of unreliable electricity.

Let's use this week to celebrate. But let's celebrate the end of the temporary 20-year-old wind production tax credit and use the $12.1 billion saved to reduce the Federal debt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to speak briefly about a very exciting opportunity and occurrence that we celebrate and honor every November and that is the opportunity to adopt children. There are so many children—Mr. President, you know, not only in Minnesota but in my State, Louisiana—the Senator from Tennessee is here, in his State of Tennessee—children all over our country and the world who are in desperate need of a family to call their own. There are millions of parents and adults who want to be parents who are waiting and hoping for an opportunity to have a family of their own. So it would make sense for us to do the very best job we can to try to build the bridges to make these unions, these really extraordinary unions possible.

That is what November is about, a month we are getting ready for Thanksgiving, in anticipation of Christmas and Hanukah, some of the other holidays that occur around this time. As families gather, our hearts and minds automatically turn to family-related events. So the great coalition that tries to help educate and encourage people on the subject has chosen November as National Adoption Month. You might know—many people go home at night and turn on their televisions. There are any number of television series by Hallmark and Home for the Holidays—lots of networks and cable companies are joining in with the idea of promoting it because it is so right. It is so natural for every child to need and want a family.

I first want to say thank you to Senators who have joined me in this effort: Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator GRAHAM, Senator BLUNT, Senator JOHNSON, Senator LEVIN, Senator MURRAY, and Senator MORAN, have cosponsored this resolution recognizing and supporting the goals of National Adoption Month and in a variety of different ways, not only by passing this resolution, which we hope will be hotlined sometime in the very near future, to go through the Senate and the House, but by participating in a variety of different events at home and here in Washington to raise awareness and call attention to the needs of so many.

First of all, call attention and raise the awareness that there are in fact orphans in America, children whose parental rights have been terminated, or children who literally lost both parents and do not have an able or willing relative and are in great need of a family. The Presiding Officer knows these children as he has been very active in the issue of child welfare.

So we have several events throughout this month. One of them is National Adoption Day. That is going to take place this month, always the Saturday before Thanksgiving, where, happily, thousands of children—I think last year we had over 4,000, and since 2000, when it started, over 40,000 children have moved from foster care to a forever family on adoption day, which is quite a happy celebration. I have attended several of them myself with my local judges. There is nothing more exciting than a packed room of parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles and sometimes siblings waiting to receive these young children in some cases, and teenagers in some cases, and even young adults in some cases being adopted.

I like to say one is never too old to need a family. There are holidays that happen every year. With whom do we celebrate those? There are joys and setbacks in life that occur throughout every decade of a person's life. A person needs a family there with them. I am of the opinion that a person is never too old to be adopted. In fact, I have known individuals adopted in their twenties and thirties. I actually met a woman from California, as crazy as this might sound, who was adopted in her forties because she was reunited with a woman who used to care for her when she was very young. She grew up in foster care, amazingly became very successful, but when they were reunited, they loved each other as they had 40 years earlier and decided to become a family. It is a bonding of love through adoption.

My husband Frank and I are proud to be the parents of extraordinary children who happen to be adopted. We built our family through adoption. My husband was adopted out of an orphanage from Ireland when he was 5 years old. He still remembers the day when the matron of this little Protestant home for children came up to him and said: Ernest—that was his name—pack your bags. Your mom and dad are here to take you home. He walked to the front of the orphanage and saw his adoptive mother and father, brother and sister, and the rest is history. He came to America, received an excellent education, and has gone on to be a wonderful citizen and, of course, a great father and a loving husband. I am so grateful for that opportunity for him.

I think about the millions of children in orphanages where no one ever knocks on their door to say your mother and father are here to take you home. No one ever comes to call for them. No one ever provides them an opportunity for loving arms and a comforting and safe place.

That is why we fight. That is why we debate. Happily, we never fight about this among ourselves because there is so much unity in the Senate and in this Congress about promoting adoption. It is one of the issues where there is virtually no partisan view.

I wish to thank my colleagues for joining me in the resolution. We want to recognize this day, the Saturday before Thanksgiving, as National Adoption Day. I thank the hundreds of cities and hundreds of organizations, hundreds of communities that are going to be celebrating National Adoption Day, where groups of children—sometimes dozens, sometimes hundreds of children—will, in fact, be adopted on National Adoption Day, and I thank those who started this day many years ago.

We want to remember November as the month. It began in 1995 under President Clinton and his then-First Lady Hillary Clinton, both of whom put such an emphasis on adoption. This is one of their initiatives that has gone on and on and has become bigger and bigger and we are excited about it.

Let me say for the record again that there are over 400,000 children in foster care in America today, and over 100,000 of them are, in fact, orphans. Their parents are either deceased or the parental rights were terminated. Many of these children have siblings who are still looking and hoping to be matched with families. The great thing people might not realize since our efforts of almost 15 years ago is that we have increased the number of adoptions in

America out of foster care from 14,000 children a year out of 100,000 15 years ago, and from 500,000 to 700,000 in foster care currently. We have reduced the number of children in foster care which overall is very good but, most importantly, we have substantially increased the number of children adopted from 14,000 to 50,000 a year. So we are moving in the right direction, but we will not rest until we have placed every child with a responsible and loving family to call their own forever.

The sad news—and I have to unfortunately have a little sad point of this speech—is that internationally the numbers are going in the wrong direction. America used to adopt about 20,000 children a year from around the world. We are the largest receiving country on Earth. Americans feel strongly, Americans of all races and backgrounds and religious affiliations feel strongly that children should be raised in families. Americans have such open hearts and room in their hearts and in their homes for children and through many of our faith-based organizations have stepped up to adopt. Unfortunately, policies within our own executive branch of government and decisions that are being made are constricting the number of children who are eligible for adoption or who are being adopted by Americans, and that number has fallen dramatically, unfortunately, from about 20,000 children down to 9,000 children. I am going to redouble my efforts every year to find the problem areas and identify them, whether something has to be changed legislatively or whether some additional funding can be found to increase efforts not just by the Federal Government but States and local governments and nonprofits. We are going to turn the corner and accelerate this situation.

Let me conclude by showing some wonderful examples of families who have stepped up. First, this is the Morrison family. Fran is from Louisiana. She has fostered over 22 children. She is a professional. This is what she does in her professional life. She has fostered 22 children. But these five she has adopted out of the dozens of children whom she has fostered. This one little baby, the latest one whom she adopted, has a very special need. He was shaken as an infant. He was born completely healthy, but because an adult lost their temper and didn't know what to do—adults sometimes may shake infants because they are angry, because children cry when they are hungry or they are cold or they are tired, and sometimes adults don't like to hear that crying. Sometimes babies get shaken or thrown against walls, and that is what happened to this little child. This child is seriously disabled but has now been adopted by Fran Morrison, and she says she has been blessed. The Lord led her to become a foster parent and then, just one step at a time, she became an adoptive mom. As we can see, she has her hands very full, but she has a great heart and she, similar to so many other Americans, is trying to make a way for these children and give them a place.

The next family is the Roberts family. Former foster youth Marchelle Roberts was one of my interns in my office just last year, so this is such a personal and touching story. She was a former participant in our foster youth intern program. Her parent is Lisa Roberts from Camden, NJ. She is adopted. Marchelle is now 22 years old and is attending Temple University studying broadcast journalism. Besides Marchelle, her mother has adopted four other children out of foster care. What an extraordinary family, built by a mom who just had a great heart, had the will and the opportunity to adopt these four beautiful girls, and they are now a wonderful family, truly loving the children to help them succeed in a world they were born into that had a very sad beginning but a very happy ending.

The third family I wish to share with my colleagues is the Johnson family. This is Senator THUNE's 2012 Angel. The parents are Ryan and Amber Johnson from Sioux Falls, SD. Two boys were adopted out of foster care. They have one biological child, a little girl. These two little boys were adopted out of foster care. What a beautiful family and what a way to build a family. That is what I am saying; that I wish we could eliminate every barrier. There are cultural barriers. There are financial barriers. There are legal barriers. If we could just eliminate those barriers and let Americans do what they do best, which is to love children, we would be a lot better off. So this is a beautiful family from Sioux Falls, SD.

Our next family is the Duhon family. The parents, Troy and Tracy Duhon, are from New Orleans. I know this family well and I am very proud of them. Their little adopted child Annahstasia Grace was born in China last year. They have three biological children, but they traveled to China just last month to pick up this little baby girl. They have waited for her for quite some time. We are very grateful that the Chinese Government has been cooperative. China is placing more children domestically, which is good, because many years ago they didn't have any process for domestic adoption. Of course, with their one-child policy, there were literally millions of children in orphanages, many little girls because they weren't as valued as little boys. But now that is changing. China is doing more domestic adoptions, but there are still children who need to have loving parents and many of them are finding them in the United States.

Then, finally, the last family is Jake and Amy Glover from Hays, KS. They have four adopted children, three from Haiti and one from China. What a cute holiday card this is going to be for all their friends who will receive it. Since adopting three children from Haiti, the Glovers are committed to raising awareness about the many daily challenges faced by the Haitians postearthquake. So not only did these individuals turn out to be great parents for these children, but they also—I know because I talk to so many of them—help these children understand and appreciate and respect the culture from which they came, and it builds awareness in America about the greatness of our whole planet. Of course, we are proud of America, but there are many other countries where these children come from, and I know the adoptive parents are very respectful of the sending countries.

So on behalf of the children who are still waiting, I hope people who have heard this can respond in some way. There are many opportunities for people to reach out to our national organizations, nonprofits, churches in communities, and people can always go to our Web site and we have some additional information about how to connect if people are thinking about how to adopt or people who want to support the work of adoption and preservation of families such as these.

Again, I urge my colleagues to pass S. Res. 595 as quickly as possible. I thank those colleagues who have joined with me in cosponsoring this. We wish everybody a great day on Saturday for National Adoption Day, and we look forward to the continued work to promote laws and policies that help every child find a forever family.

Thank you. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING CAMPBELLSVILLE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, KY, for what is quite a long list of achievements they have received recently. Campbellsville athletics has taken the country by storm. Recently, four Campbellsville students won national championships in track and field, and the Campbellsville men's tennis team won a national championship. A school would be proud of having any one of these winning student-athletes as part of its number—for Campbellsville University to have them all is quite a feat.

Campbellsville's mascot is the Tigers, and the school is part of the National Christian College Athletic Association. Four students on the Tigers track and field team won five individual national titles this year. P.J. Randles won the triple-jump title at the NCCAA Men's Indoor Track & Field National Championships in February. Tiana Benjamin won the javelin title at the NCCAA Women's Outdoor Track & Field National Championships in May. Nathelie Zetrenne won the 100-meter hurdles title at the NCCAA Women's Outdoor Track & Field National Championships this May. And Tiosha Beasley won both the long-jump and triple-jump titles at the NCCAA Women's Outdoor Track & Field National Championships in May.

P.J. Randles is the first student at Campbellsville to win an indoor track and field national title. Tiana Benjamin is the first women's track and field athlete to win a national title. And Tiosha Beasley was also an NAIA All-American at both the NAIA Indoor National Championships and NAIA Outdoor National Championships.

The four women's national titles are the most individual national titles won in one meet by any sport. They are also the most individual national titles of any sports program at Campbellsville University. Since 2009, Campbellsville's men's and women's track and field has won eight individual NCCAA national titles.

On top of these achievements are the tennis champions. The Campbellsville Tigers men's tennis team are the 2012 National Christian College Athletic Association national champions, and they are the first Tigers' program to win a team national championship, after the school reached the semifinals in 2009 and 2010. They swept through the NCCAA Tournament in Mobile, Ala., with a 5–0 record in the tournament after finishing the 2012 season with a school-record 19 wins and a 19–7 overall record.

In addition to its NCCAA championship, this is the first time a Campbellsville University men's tennis qualified for the NAIA Tournament as a team. The team finished runner-up in the Mid-South Conference.

I want to particularly congratulate head coach Kyle Caven, who was honored as the Mid-South Conference Coach of the Year and NCCAA National Coach of the Year. Several tennis team members received honors as well. Carlos Anton was named to the NAIA All-America Second Team and the NCCAA All-America First Team. Pablo Numbela and Sebastian Marot were named to the NCCAA All-America First Team. Pontus Blom, Zac Maylon, and Alberto Diaz were all named to the NCCAA All-America Second Team. John Harbold was named a Mid-South Conference Champion of Character.

The assistant coaches were Kelly Anderson and Phil Carlisle. The team also includes Terry Caven, Austin Colvier, Alfredo Bencid, David Castillo, Tyler Hyatt, Bradley Jeffries, Chase Padgett, and Austin Spalding.

Campbellsville University is a leading Christian university of more than 3,500 students that is dedicated to educating its students and preparing them to be servant leaders. Their excellence in athletics is only matched by their dedication to instilling character and a love of learning. I want to congratulate Campbellsville University president Dr. Michael V. Carter, the school's faculty and staff, the athletics department, and all these wonderful student athletes for representing the very best of what Kentucky has to offer.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, each November we recognize National Native American Heritage Month to honor the tradition, culture, contributions, achievements, and sacrifices of those that originally inhabited this great Nation. With over five million individuals of Native American descent in the United States, it is important to celebrate the instrumental impact Native American culture has had on American history. National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to focus our attention on the beliefs of tribal sovereignty by ensuring trust responsibilities and strengthening government-to-government relationships with tribes across the Nation.

Representing a State that is home to nine treaty tribes, this month has added significance to me. I would like to personally acknowledge and honor South Dakota's nine treaty tribes: the Cheyenne River Sioux, the Crow Creek Sioux, the Flandreau Santee Sioux, the Lower Brule Sioux, the Oglala Sioux, the Rosebud Sioux, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Standing Rock Sioux, and the Yankton Sioux. South Dakota greatly benefits from the rich heritage and culture each tribe brings to our State.

It is fitting that President Obama has declared November 23, 2012, the day after Thanksgiving, as Native American Heritage Day in an effort to fully appreciate the legacy American Indian culture has had on our Nation since its infancy. I am pleased we have honored our Native American Indian and Alaska Native people with a day, week, and month of observance every year since 1976.

During this month's commemoration, we must not only celebrate our Native American Indian and Alaska Native's past, but also emphasize where improvements are needed for their future well-being. I am proud the Indian Affairs Committee has recently approved my legislation to reauthorize the Native American Languages Preservation Act, and I hope my colleagues will consider this important measure, as it is critical to preserve Native languages that have long influenced our history and culture. We should promote diversity rather than suppress it, as the foundation of the United States is built on diverse cultures and backgrounds. While we pause to recognize the strong contributions our tribes have made to this Nation, the Federal government must uphold its responsibilities to our tribal communities.

I hope students around the United States take the opportunity this month to learn about the Thanksgiving story from the American Indian point of view. By observing and celebrating National Native American Heritage Month, we are reaffirming our Nation's respect for American Indian people. I would like to acknowledge and praise the more than 70,000 American Indians in South Dakota who bring a unique and enriching culture to our communities. I urge everyone in America to participate in our celebration of American Indians, not only during the month of November, but through a daily commitment to advancing the quality of life of American Indians, in an effort for our Nation to move forward with strength and resolve.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TAYLOR W. LAWRENCE

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Taylor Lawrence, Jr. who, on Friday, October 12, 2012, was honored as one of four ''Hometown Heroes'' at the City of Montevallo's 2nd Annual Mayor's Breakfast Honoring Hometown Heroes.

Taylor, who grew up in Montevallo, AL, was the keynote speaker at the event and was honored along with former Montevallo Mayor Sharon Anderson, World War II veteran Grady Parker, and former University of Montevallo English professor Dr. Elizabeth ''Libbie'' Rodgers.

He graduated first in his class from the California Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in physics and from Stanford University with a master's degree and doctorate, both in applied physics.

Taylor has had an accomplished professional career in the defense field and has held positions as vice president of Raytheon's Engineering, Technology and Mission Assurance and a vice president and general manager for the C4ISR and Space Sensors division for Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems. He served as my staff director when I was chairman for the Select Committee on Intelligence and prior to that position, as the deputy director of the Information Systems Office of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Currently, Taylor serves as the president of Raytheon Company's Missile Systems business, the world's leading producer of weapons systems for the United States military as well as allied forces of more than 50 countries.

In 1996, Taylor was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service due to his exemplary work in his field. He is a

former member of the Defense Science Board and vice chairman emeritus of the Air Force Studies Board of the National Academies, as well as a fellow at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Taylor is extremely bright, highly respected, and committed to excellence in his field. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with him during his time as my staff director in the Senate, and am proud to represent a State that so many of today's professional leaders, Taylor included, also call home.

I congratulate Taylor on his ''Hometown Hero'' award, and know that it was well-deserved.

REMEMBERING PAUL DAVIS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Paul Davis, who passed away in his home on Sunday, September 23, 2012, at the age of 74. He was an award-winning journalist whose contributions to the journalism industry him the deepest respect from his peers and community. I am grateful that I was able to call Paul a longtime friend and mourn his passing.

Born on September 3, 1938 in Clanton, AL, Paul enjoyed a long career as not only a journalist and publisher, but as an advocate for those who did not have a voice. He served as the owner and publisher of the Auburn Bulletin and Tuskegee News for 25 years and for many years authored a Sunday column in the Opelika-Auburn News. Under his watch, the Auburn Bulletin and Tuskegee News won dozens of awards for their quality news coverage.

One of Paul's greatest achievements was his impeccable reporting on cases of negligence and abuse of mentally disabled patients at the Partlow School and Bryce Hospital for the mentally ill. His stories on these injustices led to a decision by the Federal court that required patients with disabilities receive an equal standard of care. For this work he was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and appointed by Governor Bob Riley to the Alabama Department of Mental Health Board of Directors.

Throughout his life and established career, Paul was honored with numerous awards, among them the Alabama Press Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Community Service Journalism Award from Auburn University, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program, and the Meritorious Service Award from the Auburn University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Outside of the newspaper business, Paul was one of the founding members of the Food Bank of Lee County and served as the president of the organization for 2 years. He continued to serve on its board as it expanded into five additional counties. He was also a member of the Auburn Church of Christ.

Paul was one of my most trusted friends. An outstanding writer, thorough reporter, and advocate for the less fortunate, he was a man of the highest integrity and was an inspiration to me and to many in the journalism and mental health communities. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends, especially his wife, Gayle, his children, Alan, Susan, and Chris, and his stepchildren, Roger, Keith, and Scott, as they mourn the loss of this irreplaceable man.

Paul's legacy will no doubt live on in the community and in the hearts of those who knew him. His contributions to journalism in Alabama and to the causes that he believed in will forever be remembered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE JUNEAU EMPIRE'S CENTENNIAL

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Juneau Empire, a Morris Communications publication that has been providing news to southeast Alaska since long before Alaska secured statehood. The newspaper was established in 1912, a year before Alaska's territorial legislature first convened. Originally called the Alaska Daily Empire, this newspaper has documented Alaska history as it happened and continues to be a reliable, prominent source of information.

The city and borough of Juneau is the capital of Alaska and covers more area than the entire State of Delaware. The Juneau Empire is an important chronicler of government and tribal affairs in this city accessible only by airplane or ferry. For decades, there have been efforts to move the capital closer to Anchorage, and the Empire has been a strong and successful advocate of preserving Juneau's status as Alaska's capital. In a State with such vast geographic distances, responsible and accurate news reporting from the capital is imperative, and the Juneau Empire has risen to that challenge time after time.

Over the years, contributors to the Juneau Empire have won journalism awards from the Alaska Press Club and the Society of Professional Journalism. Past editors and leadership at the paper have included territorial governors and other prominent political figures in Alaska history, making the Empire an historical figure in its own right.

As media has changed, so has the Juneau Empire. Its graceful transition into the digital age has kept the publication relevant and accessible. While Alaska develops and builds a national and global presence, the importance of reliable news and information about our great State is vital. Today, I honor the hard work and dedication of the many Alaskans who have worked for and contributed to the Juneau Empire over the past century. I hope the Empire will be documenting history for another 100 years.•

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE KERBY MOORE

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Jackie Kerby Moore for being named one of the 2012 Distinguished Alumni from New Mexico State University. This is an honor given by the New Mexico State University Alumni Association to individuals who have distinguished themselves and thus bring honor and distinction to NMSU.

Moore received an athletic scholarship to play at NMSU and continued on teams after college, winning the Women's Fastpitch National Championship in 1984 with the Arrow Butane Flames from Las Cruces.

I have had the honor to work with Moore in her role as the executive director of the Sandia Science & Technology Park since its inception in 1998. This 200+ acre technology community is located adjacent to and affiliated with Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM. In her role as executive director, she oversees all aspects of the park—including the management, marketing, recruiting of tenant companies, and securing of funding for infrastructure improvements. The park now serves as home for 25 companies employing almost 1,500 people, and total investment in the Park exceeds $253 million.

Under Moore's leadership, the Sandia Science & Technology Park has received the Technology-Led Economic Development Award from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Outstanding Partnership Award from the Federal Laboratories Consortium Mid-Continent Region, President's Award from the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, and Roadrunner and Piñon Awards from Quality New Mexico. The park has also been recognized with Public/Private Partnership Awards from the New Mexico State Land Office, Mid-Region Council of Governments, and the International Economic Development Council.

Moore serves as an advocate for New Mexico State University and lends her expertise for the advancement of the Arrowhead Research Park. She is a strong supporter of Arrowhead's Entrepreneurship Center and mentors staff and faculty. She has been an involved alumna by supporting College of Business endeavors and engaging with faculty.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Jackie Kerby Moore and thanking her for her commitment to education and technology. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge her years of service and much deserved success.•

TRIBUTE TO MATT WILLIAMS

• Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate and commend Matt Williams, a life-long Nebraskan,

as he recently began his term as chairman of the American Bankers Association.

Mr. Williams is the president and chairman of Gothenburg State Bank, in Gothenburg, NE. Matt has led the bank for 39 years, an institution founded by his great-grandfather. I am fully confident that his strong work ethic, fostered by working summers on the family ranch, and his wealth of knowledge of banking issues will lead him to much success in his new position.

An extremely active member of the community, Mr. Williams has taken a personal role in growing the local economy. He has joined forces with other local leaders to promote Gothenburg, a small town of less than 4,000 people which is now home to operations of 4 Fortune 500 companies. Matt's solid understanding of how access to capital can cultivate economic development and job growth will be essential as he promotes the values of the banking community.

Matt is also no stranger to advocating on behalf of the banking industry. In 2003 and 2004, he served as chairman of the Nebraska Bankers Association and currently serves on the FDIC Advisory Committee on Community Banking. The American Bankers Association is fortunate to have someone with Matt Williams' knowledge and leadership skills at the helm. He understands the important role banks can play in an economic recovery.

I am confident Matt will tackle the obligations of this new position with the same tenacity that has brought him so much success in his past endeavors. I wish him nothing but the best and look forward to working with him on the issues of the day.●

RECOGNIZING PROFESSORS OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the four national winners of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's 2012 United States Professors of the Year Award. Since 1981, this program has saluted outstanding undergraduate instructors throughout the country. In addition to the national winners, a State Professor of the Year was also recognized in 31 States. New York's 2012 State winner is Rees Shad, who is coordinator of the Media Design Programs at Hostos Community College of the City University of New York.

These awards are recognized as one of the most prestigious honors bestowed upon a professor. To be nominated for this award requires dedication to the art of education and excellence in every aspect of the profession. Professors personally vested in each student shape the leaders of tomorrow. These individuals and every one of us should be proud of their accomplishment.

I am also particularly proud that one of the four national winners is from my State of New York. Professor Todd Pagano, associate professor and director of the Laboratory Science Technology Program at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology, is the 2012 Outstanding Master's Universities and Colleges Professor of the Year. In recognizing Professor Pagano, judges admired Todd Pagano's program for deaf students in laboratory science technology, which he helped to design, implement, and lead, coupled with the opportunities he has created for undergraduate research and internships that are critical to his students' success. Not only has Professor Pagano helped open up a new profession for an underrepresented group, but he is also a scholar of science education for deaf students, an editor of a leading journal in the field, and an advocate in the professional chemistry community for students, scientists and technicians with special needs.

We need more professors and educators like Todd Pagano. He is a native of Rochester, NY, and decided to come home to educate the next generation of New Yorkers and Americans. He has instilled not only a love and passion for science, but he has given hope and direction to students who are deaf or hard of hearing. His work typifies the high educational standards at National Technical Institute for the Deaf, which is a stellar institution that leads the Nation in the technical education of all students, especially those that are deaf or hard of hearing.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Professor Pagano and all the winners for their leadership and passion for educating. They have undoubtedly inspired an untold number of students. I again offer my congratulations and best regards.

The four national award winners are as follows:

Outstanding Baccalaureate Colleges Professor of the Year; Christy Price, professor of psychology, Dalton State College.

Outstanding Community Colleges Professor of the Year: Lois Roma-Deeley, professor of creative writing, Paradise Valley Community College.

Outstanding Doctoral and Research Universities Professor of the Year: Autar Kaw, professor of mechanical engineering, University of South Florida.

Outstanding Master's Universities and Colleges Professor of the Year: Todd Pagano, associate professor of science and mathematics, director of laboratory science technology program, Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

The 31 State winners are as follows:

Arkansas—Stephanie Vanderslice, professor, Department of Writing, University of Central Arkansas;

Arizona—Albrecht Classen, university distinguished professor of German studies, University of Arizona;

Colorado—Barry Fagin, professor of computer science, U.S. Air Force Academy;

Connecticut—Deborah A. Carroll, professor of psychology and director, B.S. psychology, research specialization, Southern Connecticut State University;

Washington, DC—Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, associate dean for undergraduate studies, School of International Service, American University;

Florida—Pat Anderson, professor of aerospace engineering, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University;

Georgia—Judith Lupo Wold, clinical professor and interim associate dean for educational innovation, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University;

Idaho—Daniel Bukvich, distinguished professor, University of Idaho

Illinois—Gary Creasey, professor of psychology, assistant director, U.S. Department of Education, TEACHER+PLUS Project, Illinois State University;

Indiana—Michele T. Villinski, Hiram L. Jome professor and associate professor of economics and management, codirector of the Environmental Fellows Program, DePauw University;

Kentucky—Tom McCollough, Nelson and Martha McDowell Rodes professor of Religion Centre College;

Massachusetts—Michael Barnett, associate professor of science education and technology, Lynch School of Education, Boston College;

Maryland—John Hamman, professor and chair, Germantown Mathematics Department, Montgomery College;

Michigan—Stephen DeBacker, Arthur F. Thurnau professor of mathematics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor;

Missouri—Eric William Nelson, professor of history, Missouri State University;

Montana—Michael W. Morrow, professor of biology, University of Montana Western;

Nebraska—Rita M. Lester, professor of religion, Nebraska Wesleyan University;

New Jersey—Kent Fairfield, associate professor, Fairleigh Dickinson University;

New Mexico—Kenneth J. Martin, regents professor of finance, New Mexico University;

Nevada—Alfredo Fernández-González, associate professor of architecture; director, Natural Energies Advanced Technologies Laboratory, University of Nevada, Las Vegas;

New York—Rees Shad, coordinator of the Media Design Programs, Hostos Community College of the City University of New York;

Ohio—Gillian Oakenfull, associate professor and director of experiential learning, Department of Marketing, Miami University;

Oregon—Juliet W. Brosing, professor of physics, Pacific University;

South Carolina—Alliston K. Reid, Reeves family professor of psychology, Wofford College;

Tennessee—Michael Pinter, director of the Teaching Center and professor of mathematics, Belmont University;

Texas—Greg Sherman, professor of physics, Collin College;

Utah—Michael Christiansen, professor of music, Utah State University;

Virginia—Robert Swap, associate professor, University of Virginia;

Washington—Karl Fields, professor of politics and government and Asian studies, University of Puget Sound;

Wisconsin—Gregory S. Aldrete, Frankenthal professor of history and humanistic studies, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay; and

West Virginia—Dan Hollis, associate professor of journalism and mass communications, Marshall University.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:06 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5934. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to include certain territories and possessions of the United States in the definition of State for the purposes of chapter 114, relating to trafficking in contraband cigarettes and smokeless tobacco.

H.R. 6116. An act to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for direct review by the United States Supreme Court of decisions of the Virgin Islands Supreme Court, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6570. An act to amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to consolidate certain CBO reporting requirements.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 743. An act to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in non-disclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

S. 1956. An act to prohibit operators of civil aircraft of the United States from participating in the European Union's emissions trading scheme, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2606. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities in the Gateway National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4114. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2012, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENTHAL).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5934. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to include certain territories and possessions of the United States in the definition of State for the purposes of chapter 114, relating to trafficking in contraband cigarettes and smokeless tobacco; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6116. An act to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for direct appeals to the United States Supreme Court of decisions of the Virgin Islands Supreme Court; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–7985. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2017 and Later Model Year Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards'' (FRL No. 9706–5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7986. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone and the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9731–9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7987. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Disapproval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Utah; Revisions to Open Burning Regulations'' (FRL No. 9732–1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7988. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama: General and Transportation Conformity and New Source Review Prevention of Significant for Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)'' (FRL No. 9731–5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7989. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland-Revision for the Control of Volatile Organic Compounds Emissions from Vehicle Refinishing'' (FRL No. 9731–7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7990. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Adhesives and Sealants Rule'' (FRL No. 9731–6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7991. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Revised RD/RA Negotiations Timeline; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7992. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; Determinations of Attainment for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 9749–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7993. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Idaho; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan'' (FRL No. 9750–1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7994. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Reasonably Available Control Technology Update to Address Control Techniques Guidelines Issued in 2006, 2007, and 2008'' (FRL No. 9749–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7995. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Requirements for Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review; Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)'' (FRL No. 9747–9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7996. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan Pesticide Element'' (FRL No. 9723–1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7997. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District; Prevention of Significant Deterioration'' (FRL No. 9726–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7998. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Chemical Manufacturing Area Sources'' (FRL No. 9746–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7999. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Indiana; Michigan; Minnesota; Ohio; Wisconsin; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2006 PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Indiana NSR/PSD'' (FRL No. 9742–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8000. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Missouri: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions'' (FRL No. 9744–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8001. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Amendments to West Virginia's Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9745–7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8002. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Attainment Demonstration for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City Moderate Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9746–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8003. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Fredericksburg 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Area Revision to Approved Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets'' (FRL No. 9746–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8004. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 9737–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8005. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementation of the New Source Review (NSR) Program for Particulate Matter Less Than 2.5 Micrometers (PM2.5): Amendment to the Definition of 'Regulated NSR Pollutant' Concerning Condensable Particulate Matter'' (FRL No. 9742–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8006. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to the New Source Review (NSR) State Implementation Plan (SIP); Antibacksliding of Major NSR SIP Requirements for the One-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); Major Nonattainment NSR (NNSR) SIP Requirements for the 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS; and Major NSR Reform Program'' (FRL No. 9743–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8007. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Partial Approval and Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Arizona; Infrastructure Requirements for Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter'' (FRL No. 9745–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8008. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Albuquerque/Bernalillo County: Motor Vehicle Inspection'' (FRL No. 9747–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8009. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Maricopa County Air Quality Department'' (FRL No. 9740–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8010. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Deferral for CO2 Emissions from Bioenergy and other Biogenic Sources Under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program'' (FRL No. 9745–5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8011. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; The 2002 Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Washington DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 9746–1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8012. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Determination of Attainment of the One-Hour Ozone Standard for the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester and Manchester Areas'' (FRL No. 9744–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8013. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Additional Air Quality Designations for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particle National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9746–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8014. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision to the South Coast Portion of the California State Implementation Plan, CPV Sentinel Energy Project AB 1318 Tracking System'' (FRL No. 9751–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8015. A communication from the Chief of the Recovery and State Grants Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Gray Wolf in Wyoming from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Removal of the Wyoming Wolf Population's Status as an Experimental Population'' (RIN1018–AX94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 17, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8016. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Broward County Water Preservation Areas project in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, Florida; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8017. A communication from the Deputy Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law,

the Administration's Annual Report of Payment Recapture Audits; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8018. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates'' (Notice 2012–66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8019. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs; Electronic Reporting Pilot; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities Quality Reporting Program; Revision to Quality Improvement Organization Regulations'' (RIN0938–AR10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8020. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Salvage Discount Factors and Payment Patterns for 2012'' (Rev. Proc. 2012–45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8021. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Revisions to Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule, DME Face-to-Face Encounters, Elimination of the Requirement for Termination of Non-Random Prepayment Complex Medical Review and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2013'' (RIN0938–AR11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8022. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicaid Program; Payments for Services Furnished by Certain Primary Care Physicians and Charges for Vaccine Administration under the Vaccines for Children Program'' (RIN0938–AQ63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8023. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1002 (P.L. 107–243) and the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (P.L. 102–1) for the June 25, 2012 through August 23, 2012 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8024. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of an item not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8025. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–121); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8026. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID), a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8027. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Government of Cuba's compliance with the United States-Cuba September 1994 ''Joint Communique'' and on the treatment of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 ''Joint Statement''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8028. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8029. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period June 1, 2012 through July 31, 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8030. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, a correspondence from the President of the Lebanese National Assembly; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8031. A communication from the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, transmitting, a report entitled ''Raising the Profile of HIV and AIDS in Your Parliament''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8032. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–140); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8033. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–0138); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8034. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–133); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8035. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–071); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8036. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–146); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8037. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–134); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8038. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–144); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8039. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–136); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8040. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–131); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8041. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12–135, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8042. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12–126, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8043. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at the Ventron Corporation in Beverly, Massachusetts, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8044. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge; Phase 2 Notice of Final Requirements'' (RIN1810–AB15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8045. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8046. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford

Federal Direct Loan Program'' (RIN1840–AD05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8047. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the completion and release of the Department of Defense (DoD) Agency Financial Report (AFR); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8048. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period from April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8049. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8050. A communication from the Director, National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8051. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's Fiscal Year 2012 Commercial Activities Inventory and Inherently Governmental Inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8052. A communication from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Quarterly Report for the period through October 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8053. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19–467, ''Meridian Public Charter School-Harrison Campus Property Tax Exemption Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8054. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19–470, ''Career and Technical Education Plan Establishment Temporary Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8055. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19–478, ''Verizon Center Graphics and Entertainment Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8056. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19–479, ''Compassionate Release Authorization Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8057. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19–471, ''Health Benefits Plan Grievance Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8058. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19–473, ''District of Columbia School Reform Extension of Time Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8059. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19–472, ''Cogeneration Equipment Personal Property Tax Exemption Temporary Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8060. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19–474, ''District of Columbia Public Schools Partnership Temporary Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8061. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19–468, ''Department of Health Functions Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8062. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19–469, ''District Department of Transportation Bicycle Sharing Fund Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8063. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19–480, ''Retention Incentives for Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8064. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on a proposed archival depository for the Presidential records, artifacts and other historical materials of the George W. Bush administration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 3631. A bill to prohibit and deter the theft of metal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 3632. A bill to amend the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to provide for the increased purchase of Kosher and Halal food and to modify the labeling of the commodities list under the emergency food assistance program to enable Kosher and Halal food bank operators to identify which commodities to obtain from local food banks; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 3633. A bill to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Anchorage, Alaska, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversion interest to the City; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3634. A bill to require a report on the establishment of a joint Army-Navy storage and preservation facility at the United States Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3635. A bill to provide incentives for States to invest in practices and technology that are designed to expedite voting at the polls and to simplify voter registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 597. A resolution to permit the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Res. 598. A resolution commending and congratulating the San Francisco Giants for winning the 2012 World Series; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. RISCH, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COATS, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BURR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. KYL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. REED, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Res. 599. A resolution expressing vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizing and strongly supporting its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Con. Res. 60. A concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 154

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 154, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and other dual enrollment programs.

S. 254

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 254, a bill to reduce the rape kit backlog and for other purposes.

S. 629

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 629, a bill to improve hydropower, and for other purposes.

S. 648

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 648, a bill to require the Commissioner of Social Security to revise the medical and evaluation criteria for determining disability in a person diagnosed with Huntington's Disease and to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's Disease.

S. 1102

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1102, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to certain exceptions to discharge in bankruptcy.

S. 1872

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1872, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2620

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2620, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 3237

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 3237, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 3338

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3338, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly.

S. 3343

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3343, a bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to require residential carbon monoxide detectors to meet the applicable ANSI/UL standard by treating that standard as a consumer product safety rule, to encourage States to require the installation of such detectors in homes, and for other purposes.

S. 3407

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3407, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 3538

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3538, a bill to reform laws relating to small public housing agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3542

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3542, a bill to authorize the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to modify screening requirements for checked baggage arriving from preclearance airports, and for other purposes.

S. 3567

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3567, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 453

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 453, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that supporting seniors and individuals with disabilities is an important responsibility of the United States, and that a comprehensive approach to expanding and supporting a strong home care workforce and making long-term services and supports affordable and accessible in communities is necessary to uphold the right of seniors and individuals with disabilities in the United States to a dignified quality of life.

S. RES. 595

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 595, a resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

AMENDMENT NO. 2874

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2874 intended to be proposed to S. 3525, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2913

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2913 intended to be proposed to S. 3525, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 3633. A bill to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Anchorage, Alaska, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversion interest to the City; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to clear the title to three small parcels of land owned by the Municipality of Anchorage, in Alaska, my home State, so that the land can be put to more productive uses in the future.

At different times between 1922 and 1982, these three parcels of land, located in downtown Anchorage, comprising 2.65 acres in total, were conveyed to either the former ''City of Anchorage'' or more recently the ''Municipality of Anchorage.'' They were transferred by the Federal government to the local government for a wide variety of specific purposes, but all were transferred for the overarching purpose of helping the then nascent City of Anchorage, which was, and largely still is, surrounded by Federal lands, have sufficient land resources to provide municipal services to the growing community. For reasons that made sense decades ago, all of the deeds for these properties contain reversionary clauses, that should the land not be used for various general ''municipal purposes'' their ownership would revert to the Federal Government. The problem is that in each case, the tracts are no longer useful for the purposes originally intended, the lands are not needed by the Federal Government, the public purpose for which the reversion clause was put in price has long ago been fulfilled, and in any case, if they

were to be returned to the federal estate, it would cost the Federal Government substantial sums to maintain the properties or prepare them for future sale.

These small tracts are not practical for the federal government to repossess for several reasons: the Federal Government is barely able to manage all the land it currently owns in Alaska, including in Anchorage, let alone adding small tracts to burden its responsibility. After more than 50 years since the Statehood Act, and more than 40 years since the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act's passage, the State and our Native People still have not received final patent to all their lands. The public purposes for which the Federal reversionary clauses were put in place have been met. These clauses were added to insure that during its earlier, developmental stages, Anchorage would use the federal land conveyed to it to build the city and the municipal and public infrastructure of the community. After decades of dedicated public use of these properties, the ''public purpose'' basis for the clauses has been fulfilled. For these properties, my legislation addresses the question of how long is long enough for a reversionary clause to have served its purpose, by recognizing that after decades of living up to its obligations under what are now outdated restrictions from the last century, it's time to let the city move forward with its vision for the new one. The commercial use of the properties will add to the public municipal treasury, and to the Federal treasury, hence continuing the public benefit of the lands, albeit in a different way.

In 1922 the City of Anchorage received a number of properties around Anchorage for municipal/school purposes. One of the properties was the 1.93-acre site in Block 42 downtown that since the early 1980s has been the site of the William A. Egan Convention Center. With the completion in 2010 of the larger Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center, the tract is surplus to municipal needs, and could best be utilized for sale to the private sector that would then be best able to afford the cost of conversion of the property for future use, adding to the Federal income tax base and local property tax base.

The second tract is a lot of .48 acres at Seventh and I Streets downtown, currently being used as a municipal parking lot. The land, obtained by the city as part of a 1982 land exchange that cleared the site for a major office building across the street, is too small for municipal or federal office space use, or for park construction, but might be properly sized for a commercial enterprise. It is zoned for business, but cannot be used for business that would contribute to the local property tax based or federal income tax base, because of the inability of the Municipality to sell the property due to the federal reversion clause.

The third site at the corner of H Street and Christiansen Drive, .24 acres in size and obtained by the city in 1963, again is too small for municipal or federal office space, and unneeded for park space, but might be of use for a retail establishment given its location near a municipal parking facility. Likewise, it is zoned for business/commercial, but cannot be used and potentially contribute to the local and federal tax bases due to the federal reversion requirement. It currently sits vacant and idle.

In all cases, the best municipal use of the lands would be for sale to provide revenues to the Municipality of Anchorage that could be used for provision of municipal social services. In each case, reversion of the lands to the federal government would result in federal ownership of tracts unneeded for federal purposes, but lands that would produce greater conveyance and management costs to the federal treasury than are likely to be recovered through fair market sales.

The Municipality of Anchorage and its Mayor Daniel Sullivan have asked that the reversionary clauses be repealed on the three tracts, the city absorbing all costs connected with surveying, recording and other costs connected with the properties. In these cases, lifting of the reversionary clauses on three of the literally thousands of acres conveyed to Anchorage, partially as a result of the Alaska Statehood Act, makes for good land use, and economic and public policy sense for both the local government and the Federal Government. The Municipality of Anchorage has already established 223 parks containing 82 playgrounds and 250 miles of trails, encompassing 10,946 acres inside its boundaries. There is no shortage of park and open space in the municipality. There is no public policy purpose in the 21st Century not to permit these very limited Federal reversion extinguishments.

Passage of this act would cost the Federal Government nothing, but would aid the citizens of Anchorage by allowing lands to be put on the city's tax rolls. I am introducing this bill now to allow plenty of time for everyone to review the merits of this bill prior to hopefully serious consideration of this issue in the 113th Congress.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3635. A bill to provide incentives for States to invest in practices and technology that are designed to expedite voting at the polls and to simplify voter registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, like so many Americans, I stayed up late last Tuesday night to watch the election returns come in.

It was 11:38 pm on the East Coast when the Associated Press called the election for President Obama, but at that late hour, Andre Murias, an 18-year-old first-time voter in Miami-Dade County, Florida, was still waiting in line to cast his ballot. Andre had been in line at the South Kendall Community Church for nearly five hours by the time he voted, just before midnight. Five hours—that is appalling. Yet, some Florida voters waited even longer—as much as 7 or 8 hours—during the State's condensed early-voting period.

Rashell Hobbs, another first-time voter, waited for five hours in Chesapeake, Virginia. ''This is just horrible,'' Rashell said. ''There is no reason it should take this long.''

Rashell, I agree.

Voting machine irregularities were experienced in States across the country by voters of both political parties. In Colorado, voters said they checked the box on the touchscreen panel to vote for Mitt Romney, but that the machine kept switching their pick to President Obama, while in Pennsylvania, voters reported the same problem in reverse, that their selection of President Obama was registered as a vote for Governor Romney.

It wasn't just new technology that caused issues. Poll-watchers in Davidson County, Tennessee, could only stand by as would-be voters saw the long line of people waiting to cast their ballots and drove away. In Philadelphia, long-time registered voters who showed up to cast their ballots discovered their names simply weren't on the rolls any more.

More than a dozen states, including Ohio, Wisconsin, South Carolina, New York and Montana, experienced some kind of breakdown in the administration of their elections.

This is the United States of America. The right to vote is in our DNA. We have to get this right.

That is why today, I am introducing the Fair, Accurate, Secure and Timely Voting Act of 2012—the FAST Voting Act.

Making it harder for citizens to vote is a violation of voters' civil rights. Long lines are a form of voter disenfranchisement. Running out of ballots is a form of voter suppression. The fact is, access is denied when registration is cut off months before the election and where early vote and vote-by-mail options are not widely available. This particularly matters for the men and women of our armed services, who are currently stationed overseas and have no choice but to vote by mail.

As widespread as the problem is, there are States that are getting it right. These states continue to be laboratories of democracy, and we need to learn from them.

The FAST Voting Act creates a competitive grant program in the model of Race to the Top, which has encouraged states to aggressively pursue education reform. The states that demonstrated the most comprehensive and promising reform plans win a greater portion of the grant funding.

Instead of spurring education reform, the FAST Voting Act would inspire election reform.

This bill authorizes a federal program that would award grants based on how well states improve access to the ballot in at least nine ways: flexible registration opportunities, including same-day registration; early voting, at a minimum of 9 of the 10 calendar days preceding an election; no-excuse absentee voting; assistance to voters who do not speak English as a primary language or who have disabilities, including visual impairment; effective access to voting for members of the armed services; formal training of election officials, including State and county administrators and volunteers; audited and reduced waiting times at the poorest performing polling stations; contingency plans for voting in the event of a natural or other disaster, such as Superstorm Sandy, which impacted voting in New York and New Jersey, and would have only needed to take a slight turn to dramatically impact my home State of Delaware.

The stakes are high, and the importance of achieving these electoral reforms is paramount. When tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands, of Americans have their right to vote denied or compromised, we have to take action.

The implications of these voting irregularities are felt far beyond our shores. I am the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs, and I worked and studied in South Africa during its apartheid regime. One of the most inspiring sights I have ever seen was during the first ever free and fair election in that nation, when South Africans stood in line for up to two days to cast their votes. Members of our subcommittee meet regularly with African heads of State, and all of us, Democrats and Republicans alike, stress with these leaders the vital importance of free and fair elections. So when we still have substantial voting issues in our own elections, that is a cause for deep concern.

We have the opportunity to send a message to first time voters here at home, as well as those fighting for democracy overseas, that every vote counts and every voter will be counted.

When States prevent their citizens from exercising their fundamental right of ballot access, whether deliberately through the law or regulations, or accidentally because of incompetence or lack of preparedness, it is a violation of voters' civil rights.

The FAST Voting Act is one way to try to fix our elections and make sure what happened across our country last week does not happen again. I look forward to working with my colleagues of both parties to move this important solution forward.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague and friend, the Senator from Delaware, CHRIS COONS, in introducing legislation that would make voting faster and more accessible to all voters. Here we are, barely a week after a historic election in 2012. I can't speak about North Carolina, but in Virginia it is remarkable that in 2012 people had to wait for hours in line to vote. In Prince William County, folks waited for up to 3 hours. In Chesapeake, VA, folks waited for up to 4 hours. It was remarkable that it was 5 days after the fact before we even knew the results in Florida. In the 21st century, in the greatest democracy in the world, voting should not be this much of a burden.

In many ways, when you have those kinds of extraordinary lines, particularly when you are working, what we have in effect created is a 21st-century poll tax. Those of us in the South have a history where poll taxes were used to restrict voters. What you in effect have by having these extensive lines is when, if you work on an hourly basis or can only get off a bit of time, you cannot afford to wait 3, 4, or 5 hours in line to vote.

This legislation, the Fair, Accurate, Secure and Timely Voting Act of 2012—the so-called FAST Act—creates a competitive grant program to encourage States to aggressively pursue election reforms. It would provide incentives for States such as Virginia to invest in practices and technology designed to expedite voting at the polls and simplify voter registration.

The FAST Voting Act addresses this issue in a responsible way. It doesn't add new mandates; it authorizes simply additional resources for those States which step up with commonsense reforms to make voting faster and more accessible to voters. This is a relatively very small program, but a few dollars spent to both improve the access and increase the number of voting machines at those polling places which are so restricted would, I believe, remove some of the embarrassment Virginia and so many other States saw last week when people had to wait so long.

I encourage Virginia's elected leaders to embrace this opportunity to improve access for Virginia voters, who should not have to wait in line for hours to exercise their most basic constitutional right—the right to vote.

As I mentioned, this bill authorizes a Federal program that would award grants based on how well applicant States—again, States will be the decisionmakers on whether they would want to apply for this program—are able to improve access to the polls in at least nine specific ways. Let me mention three of those.

No. 1, provide absentee voting, including no-excuse absentee voting. We in Virginia still have restrictions on absentee voting.

No. 2, provide assistance to voters who do not speak English as a primary language. Virginia and North Carolina and other States are becoming more diverse, and we need to accommodate those voters.

No. 3, audit and reduce waiting time in polling stations. No one in the 21st century should have to wait 4 or 5 or, as in some reported cases in Florida, up to 7 or 8 hours to vote.

This voluntary grant program also requires the establishment of performance measures and reporting requirements to ensure a State's progress in eliminating statutory, regulatory, procedural, and other barriers to expedited voting and accessible voter registration.

This is a relatively small bill. I commend my colleague from Delaware, Senator COONS, for taking the lead. I join him as a cosponsor. Regardless of which side of the aisle you stand on in 2012—and surely before 2016—we ought not to have a repeat of this 21st-century poll tax that is imposed on folks all across America by not being able to exercise their vote, having to pay too high a price, or having the kind of embarrassment where it takes us literally days and days for the public to get the results.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 597—TO PERMIT THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate within Senate buildings nonmonetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving persons in need or members of the Armed Forces and the families of those members during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or of Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may work with a nonprofit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described under paragraph (1).

(b) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the second session of the 112th Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS FOR WINNING THE 2012 WORLD SERIES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 598

Whereas the San Francisco Giants defeated the American League champions, the Detroit

Tigers, 4 games to none to win the seventh World Series championship in the history of the Giants franchise, and the second World Series championship in 3 years;

Whereas the San Francisco Giants won the 2012 National League West Division title with 94 wins;

Whereas the San Francisco Giants won 6 straight elimination games in the 2012 post-season, rallying from being down two games to none to defeat the Cincinnati Reds in the National League Division Series, and from being down three games to one to defeat the defending World Series champions, the St. Louis Cardinals, for the National League championship;

Whereas the San Francisco Giants won 7 straight post-season games and allowed just 7 runs in that span;

Whereas third baseman Pablo Sandoval received the World Series Most Valuable Player award after hitting .500 during the World Series and hitting 3 home runs in Game 1, becoming just the fourth player to do so in World Series history;

Whereas all 25 players on the playoff roster should be congratulated, including Jeremy Affeldt, Joaquin Arias, Brandon Belt, Gregor Blanco, Madison Bumgarner, Matt Cain, Santiago Casilla, Brandon Crawford, Aubrey Huff, George Kontos, Tim Lincecum, Javier Lopez, Jose Mijares, Guillermo Mota, Xavier Nady, Angel Pagan, Hunter Pence, Buster Posey, Sergio Romo, Hector Sanchez, Pablo Sandoval, Marco Scutaro, Ryan Theriot, Ryan Vogelsong, and Barry Zito;

Whereas the 2012 San Francisco Giants will be remembered for overpowering starting pitching, unflappable relief pitching, steady defense, and timely hitting;

Whereas the San Francisco Giants are superbly led by President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Baer, General Manager Brian Sabean, and Manager Bruce Bochy;

Whereas San Francisco is a city with a rich baseball tradition, where players such as Willie Mays, Willie McCovey, Orlando Cepeda, Juan Marichal, Monte Irvin, and Gaylord Perry displayed exceptional skill that eventually took them to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York; and

Whereas the San Francisco Giants inspired the city of San Francisco and all Giants fans by showing unprecedented determination, resolve, and teamwork in winning the 2012 World Series: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends and congratulates the San Francisco Giants for winning the 2012 World Series.

SENATE RESOLUTION 599—EXPRESSING VIGOROUS SUPPORT AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE WELFARE, SECURITY, AND SURVIVAL OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AS A JEWISH AND DEMOCRATIC STATE WITH SECURE BORDERS, AND RECOGNIZING AND STRONGLY SUPPORTING ITS RIGHT TO ACT IN SELF-DEFENSE TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS AGAINST ACTS OF TERRORISM

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. RISCH, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COATS, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BURR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. KYL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was consider and agreed to:

S. RES. 599

Whereas Hamas was founded with the stated goal of destroying the State of Israel;

Whereas Hamas has been designated by the Secretary of State as a Foreign Terrorist Organization;

Whereas Hamas refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce violence, and accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians;

Whereas Hamas has launched thousands of rockets and missiles since Israel dismantled settlements and withdrew from Gaza in 2005;

Whereas terrorists in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip have fired approximately 900 rockets and missile shells into Israel this year, an increase from roughly 675 attacks in 2011 and 350 in 2010;

Whereas Hamas has increased the range of its rockets, reportedly with support from Iran and others, putting additional large numbers of Israelis in danger of rocket attacks from Gaza;

Whereas, on November 14, 2012, President Barack Obama condemned the rocket fire from Gaza into Israel and reiterated Israel's right to self-defense; and

Whereas Israel, a fellow democracy, has an inherent right to self defense in the face of terrorist attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses unwavering commitment to the security of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizes and strongly supports its inherent right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism;

(2) reiterates that Hamas must end Gaza-linked terrorist rocket and missile attacks against Israel, recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce violence, and agree to accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians;

(3) urges the United Nations Security Council to condemn the recent spike in Gaza-linked terrorist missile attacks against Israel, which risk causing civilian casualties in both Israel and Gaza; and

(4) encourages the President to continue to work diplomatically with the international community to prevent Hamas and other Gaza-based terrorist organizations from retaining or rebuilding the capability to launch rockets and missiles against Israel.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 60—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID of Nevada for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 60

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, November 15, 2012, through Friday, November 16, 2012, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Monday, November 26, 2012, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Friday, November 16, 2012, through Friday, November 23, 2012, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 27, 2012, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2923. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3254, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2924. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3254, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2925. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3254, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2926. Ms. LANDRIEU (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1440, to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

SA 2927. Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3254, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2923. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3254, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 314. INDEMNIFICATION OF TRANSFEREES OF PROPERTY AT ANY CLOSED MILITARY INSTALLATION.

Section 330 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (Public Law 102–484; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''pursuant to a base closure law'' and inserting ''after October 24, 1988, the date of the enactment of the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act (Public Law 100–526; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note)''; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (3).

SA 2924. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3254, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 175, line 10, insert after ''in order'' the following ''to provide for the standardization of identification credentials required for eligibility, enrollment, transactions, and updates across all Department of Defense installations and''.

SA 2925. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3254, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. 577. REPORT ON CONTINUING MAINTENANCE OF ARMY FAMILY READINESS SUPPORT ASSISTANTS THROUGH DURATION OF COMBAT OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility and advisability of maintaining the Family Readiness Support Assistant position at the battalion level for all battalion-sized units of the Army, regardless of deployment status, until the date that is 180 days after the end of combat operations in Afghanistan.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the costs associated with maintaining the Family Readiness Support Assistant position at the battalion level for all battalion-sized units of the Army, regardless of deployment status, until the date that is 180 days after the end of combat operations in Afghanistan.

(2) An assessment of the costs and other consequences associated with the elimination of the Family Readiness Support Assistant position for non-deployed battalion-sized unit of the Army, including an assessment of the costs associated with the turnover of Family Readiness Support Assistants between deployments and an assessment of the processes to be required to hire new Family Readiness Support Assistants for units being deployed.

(3) A description of the programs to be funded using amounts, if any, saved through the elimination of the Family Readiness Support Assistant position for non-deployed battalion-sized units of the Army.

(4) The rationale for the determination of the Army to classify Family Readiness Support Assistant positions for non-deployed units as non-mission essential.

(5) A detailed description of the employment status of spouses of members of the Army who are eligible for service as Family Readiness Support Assistants for battalion-sized units, including a detailed description of the manner in which the employment status of such spouses was ascertained.

(6) An assessment of the anticipated effects of the use of volunteers as Family Readiness Support Assistants on non-deployed units of the Army.

(7) A description of the input from commanders relied upon by the Army to cease the use of Readiness Support Assistant positions for non-deployed units, including the command level from which such input arose.

(8) An assessment of levels of stress among families of members of the Army, including information on divorce rates, suicide rates, and domestic violence and abuse.

SA 2926. Ms. LANDRIEU (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1440, to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity; as follows:

On page 16, strike line 11 and all that follows through line 6 on page 17.

On page 17, line 17, strike ''shall'' and insert ''may''.

SA 2927. Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3254, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XXXI, add the following:

Subtitle D—Other Matters

SEC. 3141. CONGRESSIONAL ADVISORY PANEL ON THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a congressional advisory panel (in this section referred to as the ''advisory panel'') to assess the feasibility and advisability of, and make recommendations with respect to, revising the governance structure of the National Nuclear Security Administration (in this section referred to as the ''Administration'') to permit the Administration to operate more effectively and independently of the Department of Energy while reporting to the President through the Secretary of Energy.

(b) COMPOSITION.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The advisory panel shall be composed of 12 members appointed as follows:

(A) Three by the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(B) Three by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(C) Three by the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(D) Three by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(2) CHAIRMAN; VICE CHAIRMAN.—

(A) CHAIRMAN.—The chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate shall jointly designate one member of the advisory panel to serve as chairman of the advisory panel.

(B) VICE CHAIRMAN.—The ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate shall jointly designate one member of the advisory panel to serve as vice chairman of the advisory panel.

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Each member of the advisory panel shall be appointed for a term of one year and may be reappointed for an additional term of one year. Any vacancy in the advisory panel shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(c) COOPERATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) COOPERATION.—The advisory panel shall receive the full and timely cooperation of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, and any other Federal official in providing the advisory panel with analyses, briefings, and other information necessary for the advisory panel to carry out its duties under this section.

(2) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—Members of the advisory panel shall have access to all information, including classified information, necessary to carry out the duties of the advisory panel under this section. The security clearance process shall be expedited for members and staff of the advisory panel to the extent necessary to permit the advisory panel to carry out its duties under this section.

(3) LIAISON.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy shall each designate at least one officer or employee of the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy, respectively, to serve as a liaison officer between the department and the advisory panel.

(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the advisory panel shall submit to the President, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the feasibility and advisability of revising the governance structure of the Administration to permit the Administration to operate more effectively and independently of the Department of Energy while reporting to the President through the Secretary of Energy. The report shall include the following:

(1) Recommendations with respect to the following:

(A) The organization and structure of the Administration, including the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of the Administration and mechanisms for holding the Administration accountable.

(B) The allocation of roles and responsibilities with respect to the safety and security of the nuclear weapons complex.

(C) The relationship of the Administration to the National Security Council, the Nuclear Weapons Council, the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense, the national security laboratories, and other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(D) The role of the Administration in the interagency process for planning, programming, and budgeting with respect to the nuclear weapons complex.

(E) Legislative changes necessary for revising the governance structure of the Administration.

(F) The appropriate structure for oversight of the Administration by congressional committees.

(G) The length of the term of the Administrator for Nuclear Security.

(H) The authority of the Administrator to appoint senior members of the Administrator's staff.

(I) Whether the nonproliferation activities of the Administration on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act should remain with the Administration or be transferred to another agency.

(J) Infrastructure, rules, and standards that will better protect the safety and health of nuclear workers, while also permitting those workers the appropriate freedom to efficiently and safely carry out their mission.

(K) Legislative or regulatory changes required to improve contracting best practices in order to reduce the cost of programs without eroding mission requirements.

(2) An assessment of how revisions to the governance structure of the Administration will lead to a more mission-focused management structure capable of keeping programs on schedule and within cost estimates.

(3) An assessment of the disadvantages and benefits of each organizational structure for the Administration considered by the advisory panel.

(4) An assessment of how the national security laboratories can expand basic science in support of ancillary national security missions in a manner that mutually reinforces the stockpile stewardship mission of the Administration and encourages the retention of top performers.

(5) An assessment of how to better retain and recruit personnel, including recommendations for creating an improved professional culture that emphasizes the scientific, engineering, and national security objectives of the United States.

(6) Any other information or recommendations relating to revising the governance structure of the Administration that the advisory panel considers appropriate.

(e) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2013 and made available to the Department of Defense pursuant to this Act, not more than $1,000,000 shall be made available to the advisory panel to carry out this section.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 15, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 15, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. in Dirksen 406 to conduct a hearing entitled, ''A Legislative Hearing on the Water Resources Development Act of 2012.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Pharmacy Compounding: Implications of the 2012 Meningitis Outbreak'' on November 15, 2012, at 9:45 a.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 15, 2012, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 15, 2012, at 2 p.m. in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''America's Invisible Epidemic: Preventing Elder Financial Abuse.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Whitney Rice be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jason W. Maroney:									
United States	Dollar				12,559.10				12,559.10
Japan	Yen		1,838.68						1,838.68
William K. Sutey:									
United States	Dollar				12,828.20				12,828.20
Israel	Shekel		873.54						873.54
Germany	Euro		769.34						769.34
France	Euro		1,072.98						1,072.98
United Kingdom	Pound		842.59						842.59
Senator Jim Webb:									
United States	Dollar				10,218.00				10,218.00
Turkey	Lira		1,920.00						1,920.00
Germany	Euro		904.00						904.00
David Bonine:									
United States	Dollar				10,218.00				10,218.00
Turkey	Lira		1,920.00						1,920.00
Germany	Euro		904.00						904.00
Senator John McCain:									
United States					11,872.00				11,872.00
Lebanon	Dollar		182.62						182.62
Libya	Dollar		82.94						82.94
Monaco	Dollar		631.85						631.85
Senator John Cornyn:									
England	Pound		1,395.00						1,395.00
Beth Jafari:									
England	Pound		1,395.00						1,395.00
Lucian L. Niemeyer:									
United States	Dollar				12,720.10				12,720.10

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Japan	Yen		1,312.57						1,312.57
Daniel A. Lerner:									
Greenland	Dollar		75.50						75.50
Jonathan S. Epstein:									
Greenland	Dollar		78.50						78.50
Adam J. Barker:									
United States	Dollar				5,744.90				5,744.90
Peru	Dollar		918.51						918.51
Honduras	Dollar		438.00						438.00
Mexico	Dollar		892.38						892.38
United States	Dollar				9,320.30				9,320.30
Germany	Dollar		450.00						450.00
Kosovo	Dollar		180.00						180.00
Daniel A. Lerner:									
United States	Dollar				11,615.10				11,615.10
Norway	Krone		790.27		1,423.20				2,213.47
United Kingdom	Pound		201.25						201.25
Germany	Euro		105.71						105.71
Jonathan S. Epstein:									
United States	Dollar				11,615.10				11,615.10
Norway	Krone		747.97		1,423.20				2,171.17
United Kingdom	Pound		201.25						201.25
Germany	Euro		62.32						62.32
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States	Dollar				12,658.82				12,658.82
United States	Dollar				16,119.40				16,119.40
Iraq	Dollar		14.20						14.20
Italy	Dollar		272.97						272.97
Ozge Guzelsu:									
United States	Dollar				11,163.20				11,163.20
Germany	Dollar		710.20						710.20
Senator John McCain:									
United States	Dollar				10,773.30				10,773.30
Turkey	Dollar		782.12						782.12
Iraq	Dollar		14.20						14.20
Georgia	Dollar		201.28						201.28
Italy	Dollar		2,020.27						2,020.27
Senator James Inhofe:									
United Kingdom	Pound		269.79		153.61				423.40
Anthony Lazarski:									
United Kingdom	Pound		270.89		183.39				454.28
Joseph M. Bryan:									
United States	Dollar				1,966.20		8.00		1,974.20
Germany	Dollar		1,023.10						1,023.10
William G.P. Monahan:									
United States	Dollar				9,480.03				9,480.03
Germany	Euro		430.00						430.00
Kosovo	Dollar		165.00						165.00
Michael J. Kuiken:									
United States	Dollar				5,905.00				5,905.00
Peru	Neuvo Sol		827.00						827.00
Honduras	Lempira		572.00						572.00
Mexico	Peso		881.00						881.00
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:									
United States	Dollar				15,088.00				15,088.00
Morocco	Dollar		48.00						48.00
France	Dollar		550.92						550.92
Czech Republic	Dollar		2,144.26						2,144.26
Margaret Goodlander:									
United States	Dollar				15,175.60				15,175.60
Morocco	Dollar		447.00						447.00
France	Dollar		562.00						562.00
Czech Republic	Dollar		774.84						774.84
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:									
United States	Dollar				11,094.30				11,094.30
Turkey	Dollar		835.03						835.03
Iraq	Dollar		14.20						14.20
Georgia	Dollar		201.28						201.28
Italy	Dollar		2,097.67						2,097.67
Margaret Goodlander:									
United States	Dollar				11,242.30				11,242.30
Turkey	Dollar		905.00						905.00
Iraq	Dollar		95.00						95.00
Georgia	Dollar		313.28						313.28
Italy	Dollar		978.42						978.42
Jason W. Maroney:									
United States	Dollar				11,065.20				11,065.20
Germany	Dollar		735.88						735.88
Vance Serchuk:									
United States	Dollar				15,088.80				15,088.80
France	Dollar		204.00						204.00
Morocco	Dollar		274.00						274.00
Czech Republic	Dollar		272.00						272.00
United States	Dollar				11,242.30				11,242.30
Turkey	Dollar		362.00						362.00
Iraq	Dollar		115.00						115.00
Georgia	Dollar		148.00						148.00
Italy	Dollar		681.00						681.00
Christian D. Brose:									
United States	Dollar				11,872.00				11,872.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		20.00						20.00
Lebanon	Dollar		163.00						163.00
Libya	Dollar		70.00						70.00
Monaco	Dollar		189.00						189.00
Total			42,841.57		281,828.75		8.00		324,678.32

SENATOR CARL LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Oct. 3, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Patrick Toomey:									
Ireland	Euro		668.91						668.91
United States	Dollar				1,864.40				1,864.40
Dina Ellis Rochkind:									
Ireland	Euro		1,083.94						1,083.94
United States	Dollar				1,057.90				1,057.90
William D. Duhnke III:									
United Kingdom	Pound		574.20						574.20
Kevin Kane:									
United Kingdom	Pound		900.00						900.00
Total			3,227.05		2,922.30				6,149.35

SENATOR TIM JOHNSON,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
Sept. 30, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), BUDGET COMMITTEE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Kent Conrad:									
Ireland	Euro		415.75						415.75
Greece	Euro		513.29						513.29
Italy	Euro		542.31						542.31
Spain	Euro		339.82						339.82
Portugal	Euro		234.94						234.94
Sara Garland:									
Ireland	Euro		323.98						323.98
Greece	Euro		400.82						400.82
Italy	Euro		471.29						471.29
Spain	Euro		240.41						240.41
Portugal	Euro		252.40						252.40
Mary Naylor:									
Ireland	Euro		323.98						323.98
Greece	Euro		363.62						363.62
Italy	Euro		471.29						471.29
Spain	Euro		240.41						240.41
Portugal	Euro		252.40						252.40
Joel Friedman:									
Ireland	Euro		337.18						337.18
Greece	Euro		392.68						392.68
Italy	Euro		483.64						483.64
Spain	Euro		240.41						240.41
Portugal	Euro		258.57						258.57
Brian Scholl:									
Ireland	Euro		323.98						323.98
Greece	Euro		372.33						372.33
Italy	Euro		471.29						471.29
Spain	Euro		240.41						240.41
Portugal	Euro		184.20						184.20
Brian Monahan:									
Ireland	Euro		323.98						323.98
Greece	Euro		363.62						363.62
Italy	Euro		471.29						471.29
Spain	Euro		240.41						240.41
Portugal	Euro		317.50						317.50
*Delegation Expenses:									
Ireland	Euro						2,699.10		2,699.10
Greece	Euro						2,116.62		2,116.62
Italy	Euro						2,316.00		2,316.00
Spain	Euro						1,274.04		1,274.04
Portugal	Euro						1,704.36		1,704.36
Total			10,408.20				10,110.12		20,518.32

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR KENT CONRAD,
Chairman, U.S. Senate Budget Committee, Oct. 26, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Robert W. King:									
United States	Dollar				637.40				637.40
Panama	Dollar		1,282.60						1,282.60
Senator John Boozman:									
United Kingdom	Pound		498.29						498.29
Senator Mark Pryor:									
Panama	Balboa		304.97		195.50		710.76		1,211.23
Colombia	Peso		921.33		112.00		335.70		1,369.03
Senator John Boozman:									
Panama	Balboa		294.97		195.50		710.76		1,201.23
Colombia	Peso		850.33		112.00		335.70		1,298.03
Andrew York:									
Panama	Balboa		294.97		195.50		710.76		1,201.23
Colombia	Peso		964.78		112.00		335.70		1,412.48
Matthew Sagely:									
Panama	Balboa		294.97		195.50		710.76		1,201.23

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Colombia	Peso		1,010.58		112.00		335.70		1,458.28
Ryan Vaart:									
Viet Nam	Dong		1,061.00						1,061.00
*Delegation Expenses:									
Viet Nam	Dong						220.11		220.11
Total			7,778.79		1,867.40		4,405.95		14,052.12

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954.

SENATOR JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
Nov. 7, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Isaac Edwards:									
Republic of Palau	Dollar		499.60						499.60
United States	Dollar				5,083.90				5,083.90
Allen Stayman:									
Republic of Palau	Dollar		497.23						497.23
United States	Dollar				5,143.74				5,143.74
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
Iceland	Krona		306.32						306.32
United States	Dollar				1,608.66				1,608.66
Isaac Edwards:									
Iceland	Krona		358.71						358.71
United States	Dollar				3,501.97				3,501.97
*Delegation Expenses:									
Iceland	Krona						2,228.68		2,228.68
Total			1,661.86		15,338.27		2,206.00		19,206.13

*Delegation expenses include: interpretation, transportation, embassy overtime as well as official expenses in accordance with host country.

SENATOR JEFF BINGAMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
Oct. 17, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Max Baucus:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,076.03						1,076.03
Japan	Yen		1,517.34						1,517.34
United States	Dollar				16,798.00				16,798.00
Amber Cottle:									
New Zealand	Dollar		97.80						97.80
Japan	Yen		172.20						172.70
United States	Dollar				17,384.20				17,384.20
Chelsea Thomas:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,096.49						1,096.49
Japan	Yen		1,678.53						1,678.53
United States	Dollar				17,384.20				17,384.20
Sean Neary:									
New Zealand	Dollar		98.70						98.70
Japan	Yen		1,766.91						1,766.91
United States	Dollar				17,384.20				17,384.20
Bruce Hirsh:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,040.74						1,040.74
Japan	Yen		1,707.01						1,707.01
United States	Dollar				17,384.20				17,384.20
*Delegation Expenses:									
New Zealand	Dollar						7,447.19		7,447.19
Japan	Dollar						6,533.32		6,533.32
Total			10,252.25		86,334.80		13,980.51		110,567.56

*Delegation expenses include: interpretation, transportation, embassy overtime, as well as other official expenses in accordance with the responsibilities of the host country.

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Oct. 26, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Bob Corker:									
Egypt	Pound		227.00						227.00
Turkey	Lira		518.00						518.00
United States	Dollar				6,079.20				6,079.20
Todd Womack:									
Egypt	Pound		321.00						321.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Turkey	Lira		1,052.00						1,052.00
United States	Dollar				11,833.70				11,833.70
*Delegation Expenses:									
Egypt	Pound						841.99		841.99
Turkey	Lira						2,804.00		2,804.00
Senator Johnny Isakson:									
German	Euro		907.67						907.67
Sweden	Krona		1,281.24						1,281.24
Norway	Krone		729.79						729.79
Joan Kirchner:									
Germany	Euro		907.67						907.67
Sweden	Krona		1,395.24						1,395.24
Norway	Krone		729.29						729.29
*Delegation Expenses:									
Germany	Euro						978.96		978.96
Sweden	Krona						2,581.48		2,581.48
Norway	Krone						1,091.60		1,091.60
Senator Richard Lugar:									
Russia	Ruble		884.80						884.80
Ukraine	Hryvna		733.82						733.82
Georgia	Lari		265.43						265.43
Thomas Moore:									
Russia	Ruble		1,087.98						1,087.98
Ukraine	Hryvna		745.55						745.55
Georgia	Lari		400.43						400.43
Belgium	Euro		257.82						257.82
Kenneth Myers:									
Russia	Ruble		916.88						916.88
Ukraine	Hryvna		825.18						825.18
Georgia	Lari		249.44						249.44
Belgium	Euro		333.77						333.77
*Delegation Expenses:									
Russia	Ruble						1,194.57		1,194.57
Ukraine	Hryvna						3,744.57		3,744.57
Georgia	Lari						188.01		188.01
Belgium	Euro						199.05		199.05
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:									
Ireland	Euro		289.85						289.85
Greece	Euro		371.29						371.29
Italy	Euro		493.31						493.31
Spain	Euro		318.07						318.07
Portugal	Euro		283.84						283.84
Chad Kreikemeier:									
Ireland	Euro		384.75						384.75
Greece	Euro		574.29						574.29
Italy	Euro		524.31						524.31
Spain	Euro		363.32						363.32
Portugal	Euro		256.34						256.34
*Delegation Expenses:									
Ireland	Euro						889.70		889.70
Greece	Euro						705.52		705.52
Italy	Euro						772.00		772.00
Spain	Euro						424.68		424.68
Portugal	Euro						568.12		568.12
Paul Foldi:									
Guatemala	Quetzal		353.19						353.19
United States	Dollar				1,442.40				1,442.40
*Delegation Expenses:									
Guatemala	Quetzal						362.00		362.00
Paul Foldi:									
Lebanon	Pound		242.00						242.00
Jordan	Dinar		1,530.00						1,530.00
Turkey	Lira		1,234.65						1,234.65
United States	Dollar				7,091.90				7,091.90
Lara Talverdian:									
Lebanon	Pound		222.00						222.00
Jordan	Dinar		1,534.00						1,534.00
Turkey	Lira		1,239.65						1,239.65
United States	Dollar				7,091.90				7,091.90
*Delegation Expenses:									
Jordan	Dinar						202.80		202.80
Turkey	Lira						411.00		411.00
Chad Kreikemeier:									
Russia	Ruble		1,145.17						1,145.17
United States	Dollar				2,150.00				2,150.00
*Delegation Expenses:									
Russia	Ruble						182.72		182.72
Alex Lee:									
Guatemala	Quetzal		609.51						609.51
El Salvador	Dollar		520.59						520.59
Honduras	Lempira		1,022.80						1,022.80
United States	Dollar				1,108.93				1,108.93
*Delegation Expenses:									
Guatemala	Quetzal						303.00		303.00
Shannon Smith:									
Dem. Republic of Congo	Dollar		1,208.00						1,208.00
Rwanda	Dollar		528.00						528.00
Burundi	Dollar		324.00						324.00
United States	Dollar				9,492.00				9,492.00
*Delegation Expenses:									
Dem. Republic of Congo	Dollar						228.00		228.00
Rwanda	Dollar						536.47		536.47
Burundi	Dollar						275.20		275.20
Fatema Sumar:									
India	Rupee		1,355.78						1,355.78
Nepal	Rupee		358.00						358.00
Bangladesh	Taka		277.10						277.10
United States	Dollar				14,985.00				14,985.00
*Delegation Expenses:									
India	Rupee						112.36		112.36
Nepal	Rupee						77.35		77.35
Bangladesh	Taka						73.08		73.08

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Total			32,333.81		61,275.03		19,748.23		113,357.07

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN F. KERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Oct. 26, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Vance Serchuk:									
United States	Dollar				2,150.00				2,150.00
Russia	Ruble		1,152.98						1,152.98
Margaret Goodlander:									
United States	Dollar				2,150.00				2,150.00
Russia	Ruble		1,177.98						1,177.98
Total			2,330.96		4,300.00				6,630.96

SENATOR JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
Nov. 7, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), AMENDED 2ND QUARTER, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Peter Todd Webster:									
Uganda	Shilling		161.82						161.82
Kenya	Shilling		271.50						271.50
Tanzania	Shilling		69.66						69.66
Egypt	Pound		63.45						63.45
*Delegation Expenses:									
Uganda	Shilling				414.29		489.57		903.86
Kenya	Shilling						1,034.81		1,034.81
Tanzania	Shilling						253.55		253.55
Egypt	Pound						556.25		556.25
Greece	Euro				40.57				40.57
Total			566.43		454.86		2,334.18		3,355.47

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Oct. 31, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Patrick Leahy:									
Ireland	Euro		465.75						465.75
Greece	Euro		613.29						613.29
Italy	Euro		592.31						592.31
Spain	Euro		389.82						389.82
Portugal	Euro		284.94						284.94
John Dowd:									
Ireland	Euro		465.75						465.75
Greece	Euro		613.29						613.29
Italy	Euro		592.31						592.31
Spain	Euro		389.82						389.82
Portugal	Euro		284.94						284.94
Kevin McDonald:									
Ireland	Euro		465.75						465.75
Greece	Euro		613.29						613.29
Italy	Euro		592.31						592.31
Spain	Euro		389.82						389.82
Portugal	Euro		284.94						284.94
*Delegation Expenses:									
Ireland	Euro						1,349.55		1,349.55
Greece	Euro						1,058.31		1,058.31
Italy	Euro						1,158.00		1,158.00
Spain	Euro						637.02		637.02
Portugal	Euro						852.24		852.24
Total			7,038.33				5,055.12		12,093.45

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Oct. 25, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Michael B. Enzi:									
Germany	Euro		326.00				671.83		997.83
Sweden	Krona		633.00				1,312.96		1,945.96
Norway	Krone		452.00				472.18		924.18
Beth Buehlmann:									
Germany	Euro		379.25				671.83		1,051.08
Sweden	Krona		633.00				1,220.82		1,853.82
Norway	Krone		452.00				472.18		924.18
*Delegation Expenses:									
Germany	Euro						978.96		978.96
Sweden	Krona						2,581.48		2,581.48
Norway	Krone						1,091.60		1,091.60
Total			2,875.25				9,473.84		12,349.09

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to The Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954 as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TOM HARKIN,
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions,
Oct. 24, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Olympia Snowe:									
Ireland	Euro		323.98						323.98
Greece	Euro		387.06						387.06
Italy	Euro		498.57						498.57
Spain	Euro		240.41						240.41
Portugal	Euro		245.76						245.76
John Richter:									
Ireland	Euro		323.98						323.98
Greece	Euro		370.51						370.51
Italy	Euro		471.29						471.29
Spain	Euro		240.41						240.41
Portugal	Euro		245.76						245.76
Scott McCandless:									
Ireland	Euro		415.75						415.75
Greece	Euro		375.59						375.59
Italy	Euro		542.31						542.31
Spain	Euro		339.82						339.82
Portugal	Euro		234.94						234.94
*Delegation Expenses:									
Ireland	Euro						1,349.55		1,349.55
Greece	Euro						1,058.31		1,058.31
Italy	Euro						1,158.00		1,158.00
Spain	Euro						637.02		637.02
Portugal	Euro						852.18		852.18
Total			5,256.14				5,055.06		10,311.20

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
Oct. 26, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Kim Lipsky:									
Vietnam	Dong		891.00						891.00
Dahlia Melendrez:									
Vietnam	Dong		815.24						815.24
Ryan Evans:									
Vietnam	Dong		677.44						677.44
John Crown:									
Vietnam	ong		811.00						811.00
Diane DiSanto:									
Vietnam	Dong		811.00						811.00
*Delegation Expenses:									
Vietnam	Dong						1,100.54		1,100.54
Total			4,005.68				1,100.54		5,106.22

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR PATTY MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Nov. 1, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Fred Turner:									
Austria	Euro		1,418.00						1,418.00
United States	Dollar				4,712.00				4,712.00
Robert Hand:									
Monaco	Euro		387.00						387.00
United States	Dollar				2,535.90				2,535.90
Total			1,805.00		7,247.90				9,052.90

SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe,
Oct. 11, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), THE MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Nancy Erickson:									
Germany	Dollar		875.07						875.07
Sweden	Dollar		1,442.82						1,442.82
Norway	Dollar		622.18						622.18
*Delegation Expenses:									
Germany	Dollar						489.48		489.48
Sweden	Dollar						1,290.74		1,290.74
Norway	Dollar						545.80		545.80
Total			2,940.07				2,326.02		5,266.09

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384.

SENATOR HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, Nov. 6, 2012.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 345 and 519; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years.

Thomas Hoenig, of Missouri, to be Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

PREEMIE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 516, S. 1440.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1440) to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Reauthorization Act'' or the ''PREEMIE Reauthorization Act''.

SEC. 2. RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services may, subject to the availability of appropriations, expand, intensify, and coordinate the activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research, including transdisciplinary research, on the causes of preterm labor and delivery, tools to detect, prevent, or reduce prevalence of preterm labor and delivery, and the care and treatment of preterm infants. Such activities may include—

(1) investigating problems in clinical obstetrics, particularly those related to prevention of low birth weight, prematurity, and medical problems of pregnancy;

(2) improving the care and outcomes of neonates, especially very-low-birth weight infants; and

(3) enhancing the understanding of genetics as they relate to the underlying processes that lead to preterm birth to aid in formulating more effective interventions to prevent preterm birth.

SEC. 3. RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.

(a) EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES.—Section 3 of the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4f) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES ON PRETERM BIRTH.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations—

''(A) conduct epidemiological studies on the clinical, biological, social, environmental, genetic, and behavioral factors relating to prematurity, as appropriate;

''(B) conduct activities to improve national data to facilitate tracking the burden of preterm birth; and

''(C) continue efforts to prevent preterm birth, including late preterm birth, through the identification of opportunities for prevention and the assessment of the impact of such efforts.

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress reports concerning the progress and any results of studies conducted under paragraph (1).''.

(b) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 3(e) of the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4f(e)) is amended by striking ''2011'' and inserting ''2017''.

SEC. 4. ACTIVITIES AT THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

(a) TELEMEDICINE AND HIGH RISK PREGNANCIES.—Section 330I(i)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-14(i)(1)(B)) is amended by striking ''or case management services'' and inserting ''case management services, or prenatal care for high-risk pregnancies'';

(b) PUBLIC AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION.—Section 399Q of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-5) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs (A) through (F) and inserting the following:

''(A) the core risk factors for preterm labor and delivery;

''(B) medically indicated deliveries before full term;

''(C) the importance of preconception and prenatal care, including—

''(i) smoking cessation;

''(ii) weight maintenance and good nutrition, including folic acid;

''(iii) the screening for and the treatment of infections; and

''(iv) stress management;

''(D) treatments and outcomes for premature infants, including late preterm infants;

''(E) the informational needs of families during the stay of an infant in a neonatal intensive care unit; and

''(F) utilization of evidence-based strategies to prevent birth injuries;''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) programs to increase the availability, awareness, and use of pregnancy and post-term information services that provide evidence-based, clinical information through counselors, community outreach efforts, electronic or telephonic communication, or other appropriate means regarding causes associated with prematurity, birth defects, or health risks to a post-term infant;''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''2011'' and inserting ''2017''.

SEC. 5. OTHER ACTIVITIES.

(a) INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON PREMATURITY AND LOW BIRTHWEIGHT.—The Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act is amended by striking section 5 (42 U.S.C. 247b–4g).

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INFANT MORTALITY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') may establish an advisory committee known as the ''Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality'' (referred to in this section as the ''Advisory Committee'').

(2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary concerning the following activities:

(A) Programs of the Department of Health and Human Services that are directed at reducing infant mortality and improving the health status of pregnant women and infants.

(B) Strategies to coordinate the various Federal programs and activities with State, local, and private programs and efforts that address factors that affect infant mortality.

(C) Implementation of the Healthy Start program under section 330H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–8) and Healthy People 2020 infant mortality objectives.

(D) Strategies to reduce preterm birth rates through research, programs, and education.

(3) PLAN FOR HHS PRETERM BIRTH ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Advisory Committee (or an existing advisory committee designated by the Secretary) shall develop a plan for conducting and supporting research, education, and programs on preterm birth through the Department of Health and Human Services and shall periodically review and revise the plan, as appropriate. The plan shall—

(A) examine research and educational activities that receive Federal funding in order to enable the plan to provide informed recommendations to reduce preterm birth and address racial and ethnic disparities in preterm birth rates;

(B) identify research gaps and opportunities to implement evidence-based strategies to reduce preterm birth rates among the programs and activities of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding preterm birth, including opportunities to minimize duplication; and

(C) reflect input from a broad range of scientists, patients, and advocacy groups, as appropriate.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall ensure that the membership of the Advisory Committee includes the following:

(A) Representatives provided for in the original charter of the Advisory Committee.

(B) A representative of the National Center for Health Statistics.

(c) PATIENT SAFETY STUDIES AND REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate an appropriate agency within the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate existing studies on hospital readmissions of preterm infants.

(2) REPORT TO SECRETARY AND CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the agency designated under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Secretary and to Congress a report containing the findings and recommendations resulting from the studies coordinated under such paragraph, including recommendations for hospital discharge and follow-up procedures designed to reduce rates of preventable hospital readmissions for preterm infants.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to and that the Alexander amendment at the desk be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2926) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To strike provisions relating to the National Institutes of Health)

On page 16, strike line 11 and all that follows through line 6 on page 17.

On page 17, line 17, strike ''shall'' and insert ''may''.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on this measure and ask that the bill be read for a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1440), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 1440

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Reauthorization Act'' or the ''PREEMIE Reauthorization Act''.

SEC. 2. RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.

(a) EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES.—Section 3 of the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–4f) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES ON PRETERM BIRTH.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, may, subject to the availability of appropriations—

''(A) conduct epidemiological studies on the clinical, biological, social, environmental, genetic, and behavioral factors relating to prematurity, as appropriate;

''(B) conduct activities to improve national data to facilitate tracking the burden of preterm birth; and

''(C) continue efforts to prevent preterm birth, including late preterm birth, through the identification of opportunities for prevention and the assessment of the impact of such efforts.

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress reports concerning the progress and any results of studies conducted under paragraph (1).''.

(b) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 3(e) of the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–4f(e)) is amended by striking ''2011'' and inserting ''2017''.

SEC. 3. ACTIVITIES AT THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

(a) TELEMEDICINE AND HIGH RISK PREGNANCIES.—Section 330I(i)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–14(i)(1)(B)) is amended by striking ''or case management services'' and inserting ''case management services, or prenatal care for high-risk pregnancies'';

(b) PUBLIC AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION.—Section 399Q of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g–5) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs (A) through (F) and inserting the following:

''(A) the core risk factors for preterm labor and delivery;

''(B) medically indicated deliveries before full term;

''(C) the importance of preconception and prenatal care, including—

''(i) smoking cessation;

''(ii) weight maintenance and good nutrition, including folic acid;

''(iii) the screening for and the treatment of infections; and

''(iv) stress management;

''(D) treatments and outcomes for premature infants, including late preterm infants;

''(E) the informational needs of families during the stay of an infant in a neonatal intensive care unit; and

''(F) utilization of evidence-based strategies to prevent birth injuries;''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) programs to increase the availability, awareness, and use of pregnancy and post-term information services that provide evidence-based, clinical information through counselors, community outreach efforts, electronic or telephonic communication, or other appropriate means regarding causes associated with prematurity, birth defects, or health risks to a post-term infant;''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''2011'' and inserting ''2017''.

SEC. 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES.

(a) INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON PREMATURITY AND LOW BIRTHWEIGHT.—The Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act is amended by striking section 5 (42 U.S.C. 247b–4g).

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INFANT MORTALITY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') may establish an advisory committee known as the ''Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality'' (referred to in this section as the ''Advisory Committee'').

(2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary concerning the following activities:

(A) Programs of the Department of Health and Human Services that are directed at reducing infant mortality and improving the health status of pregnant women and infants.

(B) Strategies to coordinate the various Federal programs and activities with State, local, and private programs and efforts that address factors that affect infant mortality.

(C) Implementation of the Healthy Start program under section 330H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–8) and Healthy People 2020 infant mortality objectives.

(D) Strategies to reduce preterm birth rates through research, programs, and education.

(3) PLAN FOR HHS PRETERM BIRTH ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Advisory Committee (or an existing advisory committee designated by the Secretary) shall develop a plan for conducting and supporting research, education, and programs on preterm birth through the Department of Health and Human Services and shall periodically review and revise the plan, as appropriate. The plan shall—

(A) examine research and educational activities that receive Federal funding in order to enable the plan to provide informed recommendations to reduce preterm birth and address racial and ethnic disparities in preterm birth rates;

(B) identify research gaps and opportunities to implement evidence-based strategies to reduce preterm birth rates among the programs and activities of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding preterm birth, including opportunities to minimize duplication; and

(C) reflect input from a broad range of scientists, patients, and advocacy groups, as appropriate.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall ensure that the membership of the Advisory Committee includes the following:

(A) Representatives provided for in the original charter of the Advisory Committee.

(B) A representative of the National Center for Health Statistics.

(c) PATIENT SAFETY STUDIES AND REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate an appropriate agency within the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate existing studies on hospital readmissions of preterm infants.

(2) REPORT TO SECRETARY AND CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the agency designated under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Secretary and to Congress a report containing the findings and recommendations resulting from the studies coordinated under such paragraph, including recommendations for hospital discharge and follow-up procedures designed to reduce rates of preventable hospital readmissions for preterm infants.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDING THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 AND THE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6570, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6570) to amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to consolidate certain CBO reporting requirements.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6570) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL MITOCHONDRIAL AWARENESS WEEK

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 490, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 490) designating the week of September 16, 2012, as ''Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week,'' reaffirming the importance of an enhanced and coordinated research effort on mitochondrial diseases, and commending the National Institutes of Health for its efforts to improve the understanding of mitochondrial diseases.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 490) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 490

Whereas Brittany Wilkinson, the first Youth Ambassador of the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, joined other Youth Ambassadors of the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation in working tirelessly to raise awareness about mitochondrial diseases;

Whereas mitochondrial diseases result from a defect that reduces the ability of the mitochondria in a cell to produce energy;

Whereas, as mitochondria fail to produce enough energy, cells cease to function properly and eventually die, leading to the failure of organ systems and possibly the death of the affected individuals;

Whereas mitochondrial diseases can present themselves at any age, and mortality rates vary depending upon the particular disease;

Whereas the most severe mitochondrial diseases result in the progressive loss of function in multiple organs, including the loss of neurological and muscle function, and death within several years;

Whereas mitochondrial diseases are a relatively newly identified group of diseases, first recognized in the late 1960s, and diagnosis of mitochondrial diseases is extremely difficult;

Whereas there are more than 100 identified primary mitochondrial diseases, but researchers believe there are several hundred other types of unidentified mitochondrial diseases and further research is necessary to help identify those diseases;

Whereas mitochondrial dysfunction is associated with many diseases, such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, autism, diabetes, cancer, and many other diseases associated with aging;

Whereas research into primary mitochondrial diseases can provide applications to biomedical research and a window into our understanding of many other diseases, including possible treatments and cures for diseases such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, autism, diabetes, cancer, and many other diseases associated with aging;

Whereas researchers estimate that one in 4,000 children will develop a mitochondrial disease related to an inherited mutation by 10 years of age, and recent studies of umbilical cord blood samples show that one in 200 people could develop a mitochondrial disease in their lifetime;

Whereas researchers also believe that those numbers could be much higher, given the difficulty associated with diagnosing mitochondrial disease and the many cases that are either misdiagnosed or never diagnosed;

Whereas there are no cures for mitochondrial diseases, nor are there specific treatments for any of those diseases;

Whereas human energy production involves multiple organ systems, and therefore primary mitochondrial diseases research involves many Institutes at the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas, according to the National Institutes of Health, more than $600,000,000 is being spent on research related to mitochondrial functions, of which $18,000,000

is being spent on actual primary mitochondrial diseases research;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health has taken an increased interest in primary mitochondrial diseases and has sponsored a number of activities in recent years aimed at advancing mitochondrial medicine, including incorporating research into functional variations in mitochondria in the Transformative Research Awards Initiative;

Whereas, in March 2012, the National Institutes of Health convened a 2-day symposium entitled ''Translational Research in Primary Mitochondrial Diseases: Obstacles and Opportunities'', which brought together leading government and private sector researchers and drug developers to share information related to primary mitochondrial diseases, develop systems to facilitate future collaboration, survey obstacles, needs, and priorities of primary mitochondrial diseases research, and develop mechanisms to enhance translation of basic science discoveries to diagnostics and therapeutics; and

Whereas, as a consequence of the symposium, a white paper has been developed that identifies current research challenges and impediments and a suggested course of action to address those challenges: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 16, 2012, as ''Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week'';

(2) reaffirms the importance of an enhanced and coordinated research effort aimed at improving the understanding of primary mitochondrial diseases and the development of treatments and cures;

(3) commends the National Institutes of Health for its efforts to organize the symposium entitled ''Translational Research in Primary Mitochondrial Disease: Obstacles and Opportunities'' to improve the understanding of mitochondrial diseases and to enhance collaboration and chart a course for the future with respect to research on mitochondrial diseases;

(4) encourages the National Institutes of Health to place a greater priority on research into primary mitochondrial diseases, to continue to explore the connections between mitochondrial dysfunction and other systemic diseases, and to promote collaboration and coordination among the Institutes of the National Institutes of Health and with other organizations; and

(5) encourages the National Institutes of Health to consider the recommendations and address research directions identified in the white paper developed from the symposium described in paragraph (3), including—

(A) enhanced emphasis on research regarding basic mitochondrial physiology, variations in mitochondrial function in different body tissues, and improvements in the manipulation of mitochondrial DNA;

(B) supporting research that will provide the basis for drug development, including improved mouse models, efforts to achieve breakthroughs in in vivo research capability, consensus development around assays, and next generation sequencing;

(C) expansion and support of stable, long-term patient registries and biospecimen repositories in collaboration with patient advocacy groups to promote enrollment and ultimately pave the way for natural history trials; and

(D) the establishment of a working group to develop a system for the continued interaction among the Institutes within the National Institutes of Health and with other organizations and the establishment of a website on research on primary mitochondrial diseases.

PERMITTING THE USE OF SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 597, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 597) to permit the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 597) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 597

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate within Senate buildings nonmonetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving persons in need or members of the Armed Forces and the families of those members during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or of Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may work with a nonprofit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described under paragraph (1).

(b) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the second session of the 112th Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE 2012 WORLD SERIES CHAMPION SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 598 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 598) commending and congratulating the San Francisco Giants for winning the 2012 World Series.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am thrilled, along with my friend and fellow Giants fan Senator BOXER, to support a resolution honoring Major League Baseball's 2012 World Series champions, the San Francisco Giants.

Behind the best starting pitching in baseball, a shutdown bullpen, brilliant defense and timely hitting, our Giants are, once again, kings of the baseball world.

They defeated the American League Champion Detroit Tigers 4 games to none in the 108th World Series to win their second title in just 3 years.

It is the seventh title in the long, storied history of the franchise, and their second since moving to San Francisco in 1958.

Indeed, these are truly the glory days of Giants baseball in San Francisco.

The 2010 Giants were known as a band of misfits and castoffs who shocked the baseball world by winning the Giants' first World Series title in 56 years.

This Giants team can only be described as resilient, a diverse collection of veterans, rookies, and midseason acquisitions who banded together with a ''never-say-die'' spirit to overcome the greatest of odds to win it all.

Down two games to none in the best of five Division Series against the Cincinnati Reds, outfielder Hunter Pence gathered his teammates together before the third game and urged them not to give up, to play for each other, win each moment, and leave it all on the field so they could spend another day together.

He was not ready to go home, and neither were the Giants. They won that game and the next two, stunning the Reds and advancing to the National League Championship Series against the defending World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals.

In that series, the Giants once again found their backs against the wall, down three games to one in the best-of-seven series. In game 5 at St. Louis, Giants pitcher Barry Zito overcame years of adversity to pitch the game of his life, bringing the series back to San Francisco.

The Giants won the next two games to clinch the National League pennant in front of their loyal and passionate fans.

They became the first team in more than 25 years to win six elimination games in one postseason.

So it was on to the World Series against the Tigers, a formidable team that looked unbeatable to most baseball experts.

But with all due respect to the Tigers—and my friends and colleagues from Michigan—after the adversity they had faced against the Reds and the Cardinals, nothing was going to stop the Giants.

In game 1, World Series Most Valuable Player Pablo Sandoval became just the fourth player in World Series history to hit three home runs in one game as the Giants won 8 to 3.

In games 2 and 3, starting pitchers Madison Bumgarner and Ryan

Vogelsong were dominant as the Giants both games by a score of 2 to 0.

And in the deciding game 4, the Giants rallied as National League Series MVP Marco Scutaro gave the Giants a 4 to 3 lead in the 10th inning, knocking home Ryan Theriot with a two-out base hit. In the bottom of the inning, Sergio Romo struck out the side and the Giants were champions once again.

And what a run it was.

The Giants closed out the post-season by winning seven straight games, beating the Cardinals and Tigers by a combined score of 36 to 7 with four shutouts.

In the World Series, Giants pitchers limited the Tigers to just six runs in four games and held them to a .159 batting average.

I congratulate all the Giants players for their heart, determination and teamwork.

When your backs were up against the wall, you epitomized the best of San Francisco and came together as a team, setting aside egos, sacrificing individual glory and battling for each other, one game at a time, until you were the last team standing.

I would also like to congratulate president and CEO Larry Baer, general manager Brian Sabean, manager Bruce Bochy and the rest of the coaching staff for putting together this team and establishing a culture of excellence that is the envy of all of baseball.

Mr. President, I was privileged to be mayor of San Francisco when the 49ers—led by Eddie DeBartolo, Bill Walsh, Joe Montana, Ronnie Lott and many others—began their run of five Super Bowl titles that established the 49ers as a dynasty.

With their second World Series win in just 3 years, the Giants are on their way to establishing their own dynasty, once again solidifying San Francisco's status as not just a world-class city but a city of champions.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 598) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 598

Whereas the San Francisco Giants defeated the American League champions, the Detroit Tigers, 4 games to none to win the seventh World Series championship in the history of the Giants franchise, and the second World Series championship in 3 years;

Whereas the San Francisco Giants won the 2012 National League West Division title with 94 wins;

Whereas the San Francisco Giants won 6 straight elimination games in the 2012 post-season, rallying from being down two games to none to defeat the Cincinnati Reds in the National League Division Series, and from being down three games to one to defeat the defending World Series champions, the St. Louis Cardinals, for the National League championship;

Whereas the San Francisco Giants won 7 straight post-season games and allowed just 7 runs in that span;

Whereas third baseman Pablo Sandoval received the World Series Most Valuable Player award after hitting .500 during the World Series and hitting 3 home runs in Game 1, becoming just the fourth player to do so in World Series history;

Whereas all 25 players on the playoff roster should be congratulated, including Jeremy Affeldt, Joaquin Arias, Brandon Belt, Gregor Blanco, Madison Bumgarner, Matt Cain, Santiago Casilla, Brandon Crawford, Aubrey Huff, George Kontos, Tim Lincecum, Javier Lopez, Jose Mijares, Guillermo Mota, Xavier Nady, Angel Pagan, Hunter Pence, Buster Posey, Sergio Romo, Hector Sanchez, Pablo Sandoval, Marco Scutaro, Ryan Theriot, Ryan Vogelsong, and Barry Zito;

Whereas the 2012 San Francisco Giants will be remembered for overpowering starting pitching, unflappable relief pitching, steady defense, and timely hitting;

Whereas the San Francisco Giants are superbly led by President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Baer, General Manager Brian Sabean, and Manager Bruce Bochy;

Whereas San Francisco is a city with a rich baseball tradition, where players such as Willie Mays, Willie McCovey, Orlando Cepeda, Juan Marichal, Monte Irvin, and Gaylord Perry displayed exceptional skill that eventually took them to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York; and

Whereas the San Francisco Giants inspired the city of San Francisco and all Giants fans by showing unprecedented determination, resolve, and teamwork in winning the 2012 World Series: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends and congratulates the San Francisco Giants for winning the 2012 World Series.

EXPRESSING VIGOROUS SUPPORT AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE WELFARE, SECURITY, AND SURVIVAL OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 599 submitted earlier today by Senator GILLIBRAND and Senator KIRK.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 599) expressing vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizing and strongly supporting its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 599) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 599

Whereas Hamas was founded with the stated goal of destroying the State of Israel;

Whereas Hamas has been designated by the Secretary of State as a Foreign Terrorist Organization;

Whereas Hamas refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce violence, and accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians;

Whereas Hamas has launched thousands of rockets and missiles since Israel dismantled settlements and withdrew from Gaza in 2005;

Whereas terrorists in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip have fired approximately 900 rockets and missile shells into Israel this year, an increase from roughly 675 attacks in 2011 and 350 in 2010;

Whereas Hamas has increased the range of its rockets, reportedly with support from Iran and others, putting additional large numbers of Israelis in danger of rocket attacks from Gaza;

Whereas, on November 14, 2012, President Barack Obama condemned the rocket fire from Gaza into Israel and reiterated Israel's right to self-defense; and

Whereas Israel, a fellow democracy, has an inherent right to self defense in the face of terrorist attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses unwavering commitment to the security of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizes and strongly supports its inherent right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism;

(2) reiterates that Hamas must end Gaza-linked terrorist rocket and missile attacks against Israel, recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce violence, and agree to accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians;

(3) urges the United Nations Security Council to condemn the recent spike in Gaza-linked terrorist missile attacks against Israel, which risk causing civilian casualties in both Israel and Gaza; and

(4) encourages the President to continue to work diplomatically with the international community to prevent Hamas and other Gaza-based terrorist organizations from retaining or rebuilding the capability to launch rockets and missiles against Israel.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 60, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 60) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 60) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 60

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, November 15, 2012, through Friday, November 16, 2012, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Monday, November 26, 2012, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Friday, November 16, 2012, through Friday, November 23, 2012, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 27, 2012, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012, THROUGH MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2012

Ms. LANDRIEU. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn and convene for pro forma session only, with no business conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, November 16, at 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, November 20, at 12 p.m.; Friday, November 23, at 3 p.m.; that the Senate adjourn on Friday, November 23, until 2 p.m. on Monday, November 26, unless the Senate has received a message from the House that it has adopted S. Con. Res. 60, which is the adjournment resolution, and if the Senate has received such a message, the Senate adjourn until Monday, November 26, at 2 p.m. under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 60; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the majority leader be recognized and Senators be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; and that all postcloture time on S. 3525, the Sportsmen's Act, be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. and the Senate proceed under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Ms. LANDRIEU. The next rollcall votes will be on Monday, November 26, at 5:30 p.m.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012, AT 9:30 A.M.

Ms. LANDRIEU. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, unless the Senate receives a message from the House that it has adopted S. Con. Res. 60, in which case the Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, November 26, 2012, under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 60.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:01 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 16, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

ROBERT F. COHEN, JR., OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TIMOTHY J. FEIGHERY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015. (REAPPOINTMENT)

THE JUDICIARY

WILLIAM S. GREENBERG, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE A NEW POSITION CREATED BY PUBLIC LAW 100–389, APPROVED OCTOBER 10, 2008.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, November 15, 2012:

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

MARTIN J. GRUENBERG, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

THOMAS HOENIG, OF MISSOURI, TO BE VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY FORD

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my District office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the excellent assistance so many have come to expect in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Shirley Ford has played a valuable role as a volunteer from the very beginning of my time in Congress. Shirley had a special ability to work with seniors in our District who were having difficulty with Medicare. Shirley's wealth of knowledge about the Medicare system gave our constituents a much-needed assurance that their claims would be handled appropriately. Shirley also shared my desire to help eliminate waste and fraud in the system and tirelessly worked with individuals to identify cases in these areas.

Shirley should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Shirley and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Shirley Ford for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE NATIONAL CHARLESTON DAY ORGANIZATION FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the National Charleston Day Organization and its commitment towards conveying the belief that we all have some social and civic responsibility to our fellow man.

Founded in 1974 by Dr. Ethel Greene and her husband Mack Greene, the National Charleston Day Organization (NCDO) is a nonprofit organization that has provided assistance to communities around the country. Thus far the organization has ten chapters in the United States in Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Indianapolis, Indiana; Memphis, Tennessee; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; St. Louis, Missouri and Charleston, Mississippi.

The NCDO's mission is "to contribute to the education, cultural development, health and welfare of the citizens of Charleston, Mississippi and the surrounding area." Since 1980 the NCDO has annually awarded two education scholarships to graduates of Charleston High School. Over seventy thousand dollars has been contributed to students, sports teams, and civic groups in Tallahatchie County, through the NCDO.

For the past three years the NCDO has sponsored an event in Charleston called "Humility Day," that gathers all influential segments of the community in a proactive effort designed to inspire character in individuals and overcome the mindsets that leads to violence and erratic behavior.

During the NCDO's thirty-eight year history, leaders within the organization have worked hard inspiring people to provide philanthropic assistance to the residents of the Charleston area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The National Charleston Day Organization, a social and civic conscious group of residents who are committed towards serving their community and the country.

STOP TOBACCO SMUGGLING IN THE TERRITORIES ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5934, the Stop Tobacco Smuggling in the Territories Act. This important bill would prohibit the trafficking of contraband cigarettes and smokeless tobacco in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

This important and commonsense legislation was introduced by my great friend and colleague, Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA. Currently, the federal criminal code prohibits the smuggling of tobacco in the states; however, tobacco products continue to be trafficked through the territories by individuals looking to avoid paying taxes. This practice does not only warp market prices and rob the government of thousands of dollars each year in tax revenue. It also contributes to the public health problems associated with smoking.

I am proud to represent the 37th Congressional District of California, which is home to the largest American Samoan population outside American Samoa. The issue of tobacco smuggling matters to the loved ones and family members of my constituents, and it has become a priority of mine, as well. I am proud to stand with Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA, and I thank him for his outstanding leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Stop Tobacco Smuggling in the Territories Act will be an important step towards curbing this practice and restoring lost revenue back to local governments. I strongly support H.R. 5934, and I urge my colleagues to join me in strengthening the capacity of Samoan tobacco enforcement.

HONORING WORK OF DISTRICT V SUPERVISOR, JIM ALLEN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work of District V Supervisor, Jim Allen. Jim began his long and dedicated career in law enforcement with the Mariposa County Sheriff's Department in May of 1976 as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff. He became a fulltime employee as a Jail Officer/Dispatcher in July 1977; and in December 1979, Jim became a Deputy Sheriff/Coroner. In May of 2003, he was appointed Sheriff/Coroner by the Board of Supervisors. Finally, in June 2006, he was elected as Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator, where he retired in 2007.

After Jim's successful career with Mariposa County law enforcement, he was elected as District V Supervisor from 2009–2012. In 2011, he also served as Chair of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors. Beyond Jim's work as Supervisor, he served as a member of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo).

Jim's sense of community service and hard work ethic is evident through his work with many county committees including: Fish Camp Community Planning Advisory Council, Wawona Appeals Board, Wawona Town Planning Advisory Committee, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, and Law Library Trustees, and the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS). He served the county on the following agencies and Board of Directors: Area 12 Agency on Aging Joint Powers Authority Governing Board, California State Association of Counties, County Medical Services Program Governing Board, Mountain Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency as Chair, Regional Advisory Board, and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties. In addition, Mr. Allen has also served on the Mariposa County High School Student Loan Association and oversaw the establishment of a separate Human Resources/Risk Management department. Additionally, he helped implement the paperless agenda management system.

Mr. Allen played an integral and significant role on the following county projects: Yosemite

West Community Plan, Wawona Specific Plan, Catheys Valley Community Plan, SilverTip Resort project amended site plan application, construction of the new Human Services facility, acquisition of new fire engines and water tenders, funding and construction of three new fire stations, obtaining a Fixed Base Operator to oversee the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport, Airport improvement projects, fuel load reduction projects, road maintenance projects, Agri-nature and Agri-tourism policy, Williamson Act/historical parcels, Tenaya Lodge wastewater treatment facility approval, and the Mariposa Creek Parkway project.

In 2010 and 2011, Jim helped his community rebuild after heavy winter rains and a motor fire in El Portal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring District V Supervisor Jim Allen for his outstanding commitment to serve the community. Mr. Allen is a true public servant, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING CHARLIE DAVIS

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in gratitude to honor the career of a man who has given his whole professional life to serving the people of the United States.

Charlie D. Davis, a Shreveport, Louisiana, native was so bright he graduated from high school at the young age of 16. In 1974, he made the decision to join the U.S. Army that would shape the rest of his career. Davis was in the Army until 1977, and he then enlisted in the Navy from 1982 to 1985. He spent the next 11 years with the Department of Defense in New Orleans, and then transferred to the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration in Monroe, La. in 1996. He has been serving in this capacity ever since.

Charlie D. Davis is an exemplary public servant, and on the occasion of his retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me and the people of Louisiana in extending our thanks and recognition for the many years of hard work he gave to keep our State and Nation strong and secure.

TRIBUTE TO SUSANNA EUSTON

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Susanna Euston was an original member of my District staff and worked tirelessly to serve the veteran community. Susanna developed immediate relationships with individual veterans and leaders of veteran organizations and quickly became the go-to person in Western North Carolina when any of our veterans needed assistance. I could always count on Susanna to make sure each one of our veteran constituents was treated fairly and with the utmost respect. Susanna was a devoted member of the team, often arriving first in the morning and staying as one of the last ones out the door at the end of the day.

Susanna should be proud of the service she provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Susanna and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Susanna Euston for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO WILL ALLEN AND GROWING POWER

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a mentor, former professional basketball player, community leader, educator, author, and one of the most influential leaders in the food security and urban farming movement nationally and internationally. On November 17, 2012, Will Allen will be honored for his many years of service and contributions to the Greater Milwaukee Community by the Community Brainstorming Conference.

Mr. Allen was born in South Carolina to sharecropper parents. He grew up in Rockville, Maryland where his parents relocated and owned and operated a vegetable farm. He relocated to Milwaukee, his wife's hometown, after completing both a professional basketball and business career. In 1993, he began Growing Power, a national nonprofit organization and land trust. Growing Power is the last working farm inside the Milwaukee city limits, with six historic greenhouses, year-round hoop-houses and farm animal pens, all organized within three acres.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors including: the MacArthur Foundation ''Genius Grant'' in 2008 for his work on urban farming and sustainable food production; in 2010, Allen was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People and worked with Michelle Obama to launch, ''Let's Move!'' a program to fight childhood obesity. In 2012, Allen was presented the Security Benefits Corporation Award for Outstanding Service to Public Education by the National Education Association Foundation; an honorary Doctor of Agriculture degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and also opened Growing Power's Deli and Food Market in Milwaukee's inner city. Will Allen is co-author of the book The Good Food Revolution: Growing Healthy Food, People and Communities.

Will Allen teaches inner-city youth the entire farming process from planting seeds to selling produce at farmers' markets. Partnerships with Milwaukee Public School (MPS) and Growing Power have supplied 40,000 MPS school children in 75 elementary schools with the food it grows. Over the past 20 years, Allen and his team have been traveling the globe setting up ''hoop houses'' that produce nutritious food and create inner city jobs. The hoop houses are home to peppers, cabbage, mushrooms and sprouts as well as Tilapia, Yellow Perch, Lake Perch and Coy. The headquarters and main hoop house in Milwaukee feeds 10,000 people and uses renewable energy. Every January through June, people from all around the world attend informational and hands-on training sessions to learn the techniques and skills involved with creating and maintaining a green house. Growing Power currently has growing operations all across the United States and has made its presence felt outside the states as well, establishing farms in Kenya, Ukraine, central London and the Netherlands.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Will Allen and Growing Power, whose contributions have greatly benefitted the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the world.

HONORING ALPHA DELTA ZETA OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED FOR THEIR CONTINUED DEDICATION TOWARDS SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Organized and chartered on October 14, 1938, it remains the oldest chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in the State of Mississippi.

The Alpha Delta Zeta chapter, working in conjunction with the sorority's national programs, has contributed much of the cultural, educational, religious, civic and social development of the State of Mississippi through various activities in the Greater Jackson Metropolitan Area. Since its inception in 1938, the Alpha Delta Zeta chapter has chartered seven graduate chapters: Beta Xi Zeta-Biloxi, Mississippi; Nu Zeta-Meridian, Mississippi; Delta Chi Zeta-Lorman, Mississippi; Gamma Gamma Zeta-Columbus, Mississippi; Zeta Upsilon Zeta-Holly Springs, Mississippi; Zeta Psi Zeta-Clarksdale, Mississippi and (7) Gamma Beta Zeta-Brookhaven, Mississippi.

The Alpha Delta Zeta chapter also sponsors two undergraduate chapters: Lambda Beta Chapter on the campus of Jackson State University (1948) and Nu Beta Chapter (1950) on the campus of Tougaloo College. In addition

to undergraduate and graduate chapters, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter has sponsored four auxiliary groups in the community.

Over the years the chapter has been proactive in providing service to those in the community. The Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter has made contributions through everything from dental health programs to a community center. Thereby, continuing to use their organization as a beacon of service to all who seek help.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated for their continued dedication towards serving others in need.

HONORING WORK OF MARIPOSA COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD MARGIE WILLIAMS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work of Mariposa County Clerk of the board Margie Williams. Since 1983, Margie has dedicated her professional life to this position and has whole heartedly served the Mariposa community.

In 1974, Margie began as a Justice Court part-time Clerk in Mariposa County. In that same year, she was appointed by the Board of Supervisors as Clerk of the Court and oversaw all operations. In 1976, Margie worked in the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) Administration in Mariposa. She oversaw employment grants and the adult and youth programs during her time there.

Later in her career, Margie worked for the Monterey County CETA Administration, where she did analysis work on various grant programs and helped to prepare a one million dollar grant Monterey County received. This grant award is just one example of how invaluable Margie's work has been. In addition to her dedicated public service, she has also served in private sector capacities throughout her career. In 1979, she was part of Red Carpet Real Estate's office and property management team.

As Clerk of the Board, Margie has attended thousands of Board meetings—including an 18-hour General Plan hearing. She has been responsible for agendas; minutes; records management; processing documents, ordinances and contracts; and maintaining Board-appointed committee records of over 55 committees with over 550 positions. She was available for emergency declarations as the Assessment Appeals Clerk, and her knowledge of applicable local and state laws and regulations was often used.

Margie has been a vital link in providing services to the Board of Supervisors, County Departments, and the public. Her additional duties expanded over the years to include: LAFCo Secretary, Proposition 218 ballot processing, maintaining the website for the Board, posting the agenda and minutes to the website, and scheduling public hearings.

Margie's accomplishments are varied and rich. They include the implementation of the MinuteTraq agenda management program and the summary ordinance process, all while working with a limited number of staff and an increased workload. Margie's efforts have resulted in a several thousand dollar savings in publication costs.

Mrs. Williams has been responsible for processing thousands of projects approved by the Board, including but not limited to: formal resolutions; ordinances; General Plan updates; Title 17 updates; the construction of the new Government Center, new County Library, and the new Human Services building; declarations of local emergencies; special meetings; emergency meetings; public hearings; community plans and service districts; Zones of Benefit; land divisions; a multitude of annual agreements and budget adjustments; the annual mid-year and final budgets; the funding and construction of three new fire stations; construction of the new adult detention facility; creation of the Mining and Mineral Museum; the acquisitions of fire trucks and water tenders; the MOU with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the County of Mariposa for the continued use of the historic Mariposa County Courthouse Superior Court; countless other county facility construction and re-modeling projects; the creation of new county departments (Technical Services, Child Support Services, Human Resources/Risk Management, Fire, County Administration); and the reorganization of numerous county departments.

It's remarkable to note that Margie began her career prior to the use of copy machines. Even after their introduction to the workplace, there were still forms in triplicate that were typed on the typewriter. She worked with no voicemail and all notes were handwritten. Margie has been relied upon by all for her decade's worth of institutional knowledge and steel trap memory.

Mrs. Williams has been married to her husband Tom for thirty-seven years and finds joy in their daughter, Michelle Williams, son, Tom and his wife, Dr. Jamie Williams, and their grandson, Tommy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mariposa County Clerk of the Board Margie Williams for her outstanding commitment to serve her community. Mrs. Williams is a true public servant, and I wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROSCOE A. BOLTON

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long life of Mr. Roscoe A. Bolton, who passed away on Wednesday, September 26, 2012, at the age of 99. He was a deep-rooted Alexandria, La. businessman and one we shall never forget.

Mr. Bolton was born in March of 1913, before the First World War. A home-grown son of Alexandria, he attended West End Grammar School, Bolton High School, Culver Military Academy and Louisiana College. Additionally, he studied at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business during the Great Depression, but returned home to work alongside his father in the insurance business. The only leave he took from this venture was in 1942, when he volunteered for the U.S. Navy after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Mr. Bolton served in the Pacific Theater as a Lt. Commander and later as a Commanding Officer of the U.S. Naval Section Base in Burwood, La.

As well as his selfless service to our country, Mr. Bolton loyally served the people of his beloved community. Among the world's 1.2 million Rotarian members, he was recently honored as the longest-serving as he marked his 77th year. Moreover, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana-based Rapides Bank & Trust Company and Oliver Lodge No. 874 F&A.M, past-president of the First Charter Commission of the City of Alexandria, Director of the Industrial Development Board, and a Trustee of the Central Cities Development Corporation. It is plain to see that as we reflect on Mr. Bolton's fulfilling life, we see an overriding theme of true altruism.

A lifelong member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Mr. Bolton was also a faithful servant to his church and to his family. A devoted husband and father, he will be dearly missed by his wife, Sue, two children and step-child, eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Roscoe A. Bolton. To say that Mr. Bolton left his fingerprint on the world would be an understatement. He was a leader, teacher, parent, husband, friend, and example to all of us. Countless lives have been changed for the better by his efforts, and he will remain in our hearts forever.

HONORING WENDELL WHITE

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Wendell White joined my Washington, D.C. office in November 2011. As the Coordinator of Special Projects, Wendell has performed with precision and care and sees every task through with a careful eye for detail. I have also entrusted Wendell with the management of one of my chief initiatives, our business outreach program. Wendell has demonstrated extraordinary resourcefulness and commitment to the outreach effort, which has yielded unparalleled results under his care. Moreover,

Wendell has shown a great deal of dedication to understanding the intricacies of his legislative portfolio and has proven his ability to successfully multi-task high priority projects. Wendell is focused and employs a strong work ethic, often keeping long hours to ensure that his job is done to the very best of his ability.

Wendell should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Wendell and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Wendell White for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE GLEN WILLIAMS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representatives BOB GOODLATTE and ROBERT HURT, honor U.S. District Judge Glen Williams, a devoted public servant to the Commonwealth of Virginia, who passed away on November 4, 2012.

Born in Jonesville, Virginia, Judge Williams spent his childhood in his father's grocery store listening to stories of coal miners and farmers from across the region. It was these stories which helped instill Judge Williams with an understanding about the lives of everyday people. Undoubtedly, he maintained this foundation throughout his life and career.

Judge Williams courageously put his college education on hold when we were attacked at Pearl Harbor. The day after that horrible event, he joined the U.S. Navy. He served in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Mediterranean theaters as well as in the Allied invasion of southern France during WWII. After the war, he went back to school and received his bachelor's degree from Milligan College, and in 1948 received his law degree from the University of Virginia's School of Law.

Above all else, Judge Williams was dedicated to his work. He was a Commonwealth's Attorney for Lee County, Virginia, and later served as a Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia from 1963 until 1975. In 1976, he was nominated by President Gerald Ford to serve as a federal judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, where he served until 2010. He also served as a member of the Virginia State Senate from 1953–1955.

Judge Williams had a tremendous impact on our communities—in the Ninth District, the Sixth District, and the Fifth District—as well as upon countless individuals all across the region. Judge Williams was a man we all greatly respected, a courageous public servant, and an honorable defender of the rule of law. May his spirit of strength and resilience continue with us. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy and influence will be long remembered across the entire western region of Virginia.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Judge Williams' wife, Jane; his four daughters, Susan, Judith, Rebecca, and Melinda; his family, friends, and many loved ones. May God give them comfort during this difficult time.

IN TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. AND JAMES L. NEDERLANDER ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR RECOGNITION BY THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY AS LIVING LANDMARKS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to James M. and James L. Nederlander who are being honored by the New York Landmarks Conservancy at its Living Landmarks Celebration 2012. The Nederlander family has been a symbol of Broadway theater for three generations. This year marks the 100th Anniversary of The Nederlander Organization. James M. Nederlander, who celebrates his 90th birthday this year, is Chairman of the Nederlander Producing Company. James L. Nederlander serves as President of The Nederlander Organization.

James M. Nederlander, affectionately known as Jimmy, has had a remarkable 70-year career in theater production and management. The Nederlander Organization, founded by his father, David T. Nederlander in Detroit, Michigan, now owns and operates nine theaters in New York City. Five of them—Brooks Atkinson, Neil Simon, The Palace, Lunt-Fontanne, and Richard Rodgers—have been named New York City landmarks. The Nederlander Organization also owns several venues across the United States and in London. James M. Nederlander is credited with establishing the concept of an outdoor amphitheater. He has succeeded in drawing new audiences and has worked to keep a loyal audience through an Audience Rewards program.

Mr. Nederlander moved The Nederlander Organization to New York in 1964, recognizing that there was greater opportunity for expansion outside of Michigan. He became one of New York's preeminent producers, earning 11 Tony Awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award he received on June 6, 2004. He has also produced ballets, operas, and concerts. Dedicated to the support of young performers, Mr. Nederlander established The National High School Musical Theater Awards (NHSMTA). The national competition, known as the "The Jimmy Awards" in his honor, is being documented in a new PBS television series called Broadway or Bust.

Under the leadership of Jimmy's son, James L. "Jimmy, Jr." Nederlander, the Nederlander Organization continues to maintain its trademark standards of excellence. The production company is responsible for putting on some of Broadway's most famous shows, including La Cage Aux Folles, Hairspray, Wicked, Rent, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Chicago, and The Lion King among many others. The company has long-standing relationships with some of the greatest companies and composers in show business, including Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber, Jerry Herman, and Disney. The Nederlanders have produced over 100 theatrical productions enjoyed by thousands of New York City tourists and residents every year, and have invested in, co-produced and booked countless others.

James L. Nederlander has been a theater owner since 1970 and has produced plays since 1984. Former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani appointed Mr. Nederlander to the Trust for Cultural Resources of the City's Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Mayor's Theatre Advisory Council, and the Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre, and Broadcasting. He is also a member of several charitable and philanthropic organizations. He is on the Executive Committee of the League of American Theatre, the Board of Trustees of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, the Board of the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation, and the Board of the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center Comprehensive Cancer.

The Nederlanders continue to present some of the most popular plays on Broadway in the culture capital of the world. Current shows include Peter and the Starcatcher, Evita, Newsies, and Annie. Their contributions to Broadway and the broader theater community across the country are truly legendary. The achievements of the Nederlander family have earned them the distinction of being the Landmarks Conservancy's first father-son Living Landmark honorees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my good friends, James M. and James L. Nederlander on this remarkable honor. They have entertained audiences for 100 years, and made significant contributions to the arts and to New York City that will last for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of International Education Week which is a joint initiative created by the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Education 12 years ago and, as of today, is celebrated in more than 100 countries. Schools throughout the United States and the world are celebrating this week to promote and celebrate the benefits of international education and global exchange.

I saw firsthand the value of building international relationships during my time with the Peace Corps. Learning a foreign language opens minds to other worlds, builds lasting positive relationships, and has been scientifically proven to generate more flexibility in thinking—something we are in great need of today. During all of my years representing the Central Coast of California, I have been an ardent supporter of culturally-based foreign language education within our schools, universities, and within our government institutions. Our future leaders must have strong global skills which are best attained by learning a foreign language and by studying or volunteering abroad. I am proud to say that Monterey, California, in particular is a great talent bank rich in foreign language and cultural expertise thanks in much part to our secondary school

teachers, the Monterey Institute of International Studies, the Defense Language Institute, the Joint Foreign Area Officers program at the Naval Post Graduate School, and the National Virtual Translation Center.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan would agree with me that to compete in today's global economy, students need an international education paired with studying foreign languages. The State Department and the Department of Education should be commended for developing and supporting International Education Week.

HONORING STEVE STANFIELD-SWITZER

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my District office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide excellent constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the exceptional assistance so many have come to expect from our District team. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown to me during my years of service in Congress.

Steve Stanfield-Switzer played a valuable role as a volunteer in my District office. I could always count on Steve to make sure visitors to our District office knew they were respected and recognized. Constituents were often comforted by Steve's calm confidence when they visited or called in need of critical assistance. Steve showed a particular interest in assisting our veterans and became a valuable resource to our staff in diagnosing their problems and helping to point them in the right direction.

Steve should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Steve Stanfield-Switzer for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING WORK OF CHARLES ''CHUCK'' MOSHER

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work of Charles "Chuck" Mosher, M.D., M.P.H. as the County Health Officer for Mariposa County. Serving in this position since 1988, Dr. Mosher has worked vigorously to make positive changes in the community.

Dr. Mosher is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He received his Medical Degree from the New York Medical College and continued his education at the University of Washington. While there, he earned his Master's in Public Health.

Chuck has dedicated his career to improving the health of those around him. While he was a physician, he volunteered for the Peace Corps in both Paraguay and Washington, D.C. He served as the Director of Emergency Medicine for the State of Georgia; and here in the Central Valley, he continued his career as the Emergency Medical Services Medical Director and Health Officer for Merced County. In addition, Chuck has passionately met the needs of his community through his general private practice in Mariposa County. He also served as Chief of Staff for the John C. Fremont Hospital.

On November 7, 1988, Dr. Mosher was appointed Mariposa County Health Officer. In this position, he dedicated his time to managing the day-to-day operations and budget of the Health Department, serving the public health needs of the residents and tourists in Mariposa County. This dedication to fulfill the public health needs of so many people makes Dr. Mosher an invaluable asset to the community.

As Public Health Officer, Dr. Mosher's duties not only covered infectious and communicable diseases, including measles and whooping cough outbreaks, Hantavirus, and H1N1 influenza; but everything from hazardous materials, air quality, aging septic systems, toxic chemicals, underground storage tanks, endemic rabies, several wildfires, sewage spills into the Merced River, floods, and anthrax exposure. He even increased public awareness by writing a regular column in the local newspaper and speaking to local service clubs and schools.

During Chuck's long, distinguished career, he has accomplished ambitious changes in the emergency medical services, which include contracting with professional ambulance companies, and coordinating and conducting emergency drills along with other public agencies. He is a member of the Mariposa Emergency Medical Care Committee and the Quality Improvement Subcommittee. Chuck has overseen and maintained involvement and communications with numerous regional health and safety related committees and agencies.

Working within a community facing many unique challenges, Dr. Mosher directed the enforcement of state and county health and sanitation laws and regulations and oversaw environmental health. He worked to educate and protect rural areas with the state's implementation of septic tank regulations and effectively transitioned the environmental and nursing staff from the state to the county with the reorganization of the department.

Dr. Mosher's sense of citizenship and volunteerism was recognized for his role in maintaining public safety during the post 9/11 events of 2001. He organized clinic services, dental health programs, community health resources, emergency medical services, and public health education—including the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program. He wrote grants and contributed to the Smart Start Visiting Nurse program and Tobacco Cessation program. His dedicated work to these programs, as well as others, has improved the lives of countless individuals.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Charles Mosher for his outstanding commitment to serve the health needs of those in his community. In his retirement, he plans to continue with his passion of writing and possibly travel to serve in other less developed countries. Dr. Mosher is a true public servant, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING WALTER HILGART

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter Hilgart both for his service to our nation and for his continued service to the community.

Growing up during the Great Depression in Wisconsin, Mr. Hilgart began his service career in the U.S. Army. By the end of World War II, he had flown 22 combat missions with the Army Air Forces. He then left the service but quickly enlisted again—this time with the U.S. Air Force. By the end of his service with the Air Force, he had risen to the top enlisted grade of chief master sergeant.

Mr. Hilgart's service did not end there. As a retiree, he began substitute teaching in Pasco County, Florida. He is now a familiar face on Gulf High School's campus, even celebrating his 90th birthday in conjunction with the school's 90th birthday. During his time in the classroom, he encourages students to make the most of their education. Many students are so captivated by his life experiences that they work to quickly complete their assignments so there is time to hear his stories.

Mr. Hilgart's dedication to country and community are truly inspiring. Throughout his life, he has selflessly demonstrated qualities of putting others before himself. His legacy will certainly live on through the many students he has inspired for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 604. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 604.

HONORING THE JACKSON ADVOCATE NEWSPAPER FOR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable newspaper, the Jackson Advocate. Established in

1938 by Mr. Percy Greene, the Jackson Advocate is a weekly newspaper covering issues affecting the African-American community.

Founder, Mr. Greene was a veteran of World War I and a Civil Rights leader in the 1940s and 1950s. Mr. Greene was determined to make a contribution to the struggle of African-American people in the South during a time when they were severely oppressed by legal segregation and Jim Crow.

In 1940 Mr. Greene and thirty other publishers formed a consortium of African American newspapers to bring relevant information to black readers in the United States of America. That consortium led to the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, which promoted coverage of injustices against African Americans as well as their accomplishments. In 1978, Mr. Charles Tisdale became the owner and publisher of the Jackson Advocate and remained the owner and publisher until he passed in 2007.

The paper has received numerous awards and citations in its 68 years of service in reporting news and events relevant to the African-American community, including the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus Award for Excellence, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Journalism Award, and the National Black Chamber of Commerce Newspaper of the Year. In 1988 the magazine Newsday referred to the Advocate as a "national treasure."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson Advocate for their dedication to serving and educating those in Mississippi and around the country.

TRIBUTE TO ERNEST A. SAMPSON III

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ernest A. Sampson III, a man dedicated to serving God, his family, and the community. Ernest Sampson is the youngest of three children born to Ernest Jr. and Fay Sampson. As a young child, Mr. Sampson would often spend time with his maternal grandparents, James and Winona Willie of Brooklyn, NY. While there he learned to emulate the caring nature of his grandmother and the respect his grandfather earned from the surrounding community as the head of James H. Willie Funeral Home, Inc. As a result, an honest interest in service for young Mr. Sampson was born.

Receiving his early education in the New York Public School system, Mr. Sampson graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School in 1982 and went on to obtain his Bachelor's of Science degree in Funeral Service Administration from St. John's University in 1986. In 1986, after taking several exams and serving in a one year apprenticeship with the James H. Willie Funeral Home, Mr. Sampson achieved his lifelong goal of becoming a licensed funeral director. Many of life's challenges would come the young man's way, yet he pursued his dreams and aspirations and established Sampson Funeral Service in 1993. Since that time, Mr. Sampson has expanded his ministry of comfort throughout the Brooklyn, Bronx, and Queens communities. Mr. Simpson has conducted numerous educational seminars on the topics of funerals, consolation, and city, state, and federal burial assistance programs. These seminars have been piloted on Career Days at schools, community events, and at youth organizations.

Mr. Sampson currently serves on the ministerial and teaching staffs of the First Baptist Full Gospel Church of Brownsville, NY. He has received awards from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz as well as the New York Men of Distinction award, and also served as a sponsor for Operation Get Ahead in 2003, Annual Youth Explosion in 2003, and the Coney Island Youth Alive sponsor in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Sampson for his extraordinary accomplishments as a funeral director in New York City. Appreciation, comfort, and professionalism are paramount in his life and serve as guiding posts for the families and communities he serves.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Sampson.

TRIBUTE TO TOM JONES

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Tom Jones served on my District staff during my first term in Congress. Tom was instrumental in helping to establish our office's outreach program with the local business community. Tom also performed extensive research into grant opportunities for the District and was a valuable resource to local governments and non-profits in realizing assistance available to them from the Federal government. Tom established our office as a vital resource to the region in helping to grow the local and state economies.

Tom should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Tom and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Tom Jones for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING GILDA GONZALES UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Ms. Gilda Gonzales and the tremendous accomplishments of the Spanish Speaking Unity Council under her leadership. For nearly five decades, the Unity Council has continued to enrich families' quality of life by helping them build wealth and assets through comprehensive programs of sustainable economic, social and neighborhood development. We honor the Unity Council along with its fearless leader, Mrs. Gilda Gonzales, who is stepping down from her duties as Chief Executive Officer.

This evening, supporters and friends gather in the Fruitvale District of Oakland to bid farewell to Ms. Gonzales and to congratulate the Unity Council for all of its many accomplishments. In 1964, what started as a political action group soon evolved into a social services assistance program to aid Latinos in the Fruitvale district. By 1967, the organization had become incorporated as a nonprofit organization and service agency. And, in the years that followed, the Unity Council became a powerful catalyst for pervasive social change.

In addition to securing resources for the Fruitvale district, the Unity Council gained respectability and credibility within the Latino community, as well as among local, state and federal officials and private funding sources. As a result of the Unity Council's trailblazing role in the Fruitvale area, public and private social services agencies began to locate offices there for the first time. Furthermore, Unity Council representatives moved onto a variety of advisory groups in the East Bay, influencing policy, funding and resource allocation decisions while providing an empowering voice for Oakland's Latino community.

Ms. Gonzales' prolific career includes three decades of inspired leadership and advocacy. Raised in a small town in California's Central Valley, Gilda Gonzales is the youngest of five children. From an early age, Ms. Gonzales knew she wanted to go to college and enter public service. Her first government job was an internship in the office of Congressman Ron Dellums. Then, when 500 people applied for one-year fellowships at the California State Assembly, she was one of 12 selected. After working for several state assembly members, she left Sacramento in 1991 to assume the position of policy analyst with former Oakland Mayor Harris' office.

During her 14-year tenure in City Hall, Ms. Gonzales served in several capacities, including budget analyst, Assistant to the Finance Agency Director, and dual Chief of Staff for then-City Manager Robert Bobb and Mayor Jerry Brown. In 2001, she was named the City of Oakland's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. In this capacity, she was the City of Oakland's state legislative lobbyist and managed the City's contracted federal lobbyists. Throughout Ms. Gonzales' successful government career, where she was one of the highest-level Latinos working in City Hall, she

maintained strong personal connections with community-based organizations in Fruitvale.

In December of 2004, when Ms. Gonzales became the Chief Executive Officer of the Unity Council, she brought to the position invaluable experience, an incredible vision, a penchant for creativity and an expertise in managing finances. As a result of her leadership, the Unity Council was able to overcome and stabilize a dire financial situation. Ms. Gonzales' quick thinking and strategic planning helped to create the solid foundation that the Unity Council enjoys today.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, Ms. Gilda Gonzales, I salute you. I am proud to call you a colleague, a constituent, and, most importantly, my friend. Thank you for your countless contributions and your never-ending commitment to our communities. I congratulate you on your many achievements, and I wish you and your loved ones all the best in this next chapter of life.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ARMY SPECIALIST ERIC HUNTER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an American hero in the truest sense of the word. This weekend, 24-year-old U.S. Army Specialist Eric Hunter returns home to Monroeville, Alabama for the first time since he sustained serious injuries from an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.

The day before his one-year wedding anniversary, Specialist Hunter was on patrol when he stepped on an IED. The May 31, 2012 blast took his right foot and eventually his right leg. He also suffered a shattered right wrist and left leg, as well as a broken forearm. The service and the sacrifice of this country's military personnel is both moving and inspiring. Specialist Hunter's dedication to his country is equally matched by his remarkable determination to recover from his wounds.

For Specialist Hunter, the road to recovery has been a long one. He was transported to three different hospitals in five days before being flown to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. During his recovery at Walter Reed, he was visited by President Obama and other notables, including singer Neil Diamond.

It was also at Walter Reed that Specialist Hunter joined a special program that pairs famous musicians with wounded soldiers to assist their recovery. As a part of Musicorps, Specialist Hunter played his guitar with former Pink Floyd bassist Roger Waters and G.E. Smith, former lead guitarist of Hall & Oates and Bob Dylan's touring band.

On November 8, 2012, Specialist Hunter took a seat on stage in the Beacon Theatre in New York City at the 6th Annual Stand Up for Heroes benefit playing alongside fellow wounded warriors and music legends Waters, Smith and Bruce Springsteen. The Annual Stand Up for Heroes event, sponsored by the Bob Woodruff Foundation, has so far raised over $12 million for wounded soldiers.

In September 2012, I was honored to join Specialist Hunter, his wife, Kenna, and their children Kensley and Jayce for breakfast in the U.S. Capitol, where I personally thanked him for his service to our country. Specialist Hunter also served a 2010–2011 tour in Iraq before his recent posting in Afghanistan.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and the United States, I offer deep gratitude to Specialist Hunter for both his sacrifices for the security of America and his example to fellow wounded warriors as they return to their families and communities to re-enter civilian life. We are proud to welcome him home to Alabama.

HONORING ROB ELLSWORTH

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

MR. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Rob Ellsworth served as a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for my entire first term. Although still a college student when he started, Rob's intelligence and deep understanding of complex issues was rivaled by few. Rob helped draft the SAVE Act, the most comprehensive piece of legislation I introduced in my first term. His ability to help me garner bipartisan support for a bill that excited deep and passionate public debate is a testament to his skill and value as a policy expert. Since his departure from my office, I have continued to lean on Rob for advice and support.

Rob should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Rob and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Rob Ellsworth for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week, November 11 through November 17, 2012, as American Education Week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the millions of Americans who work every day to give our youth a world class public education.

American Education Week was first observed in 1921 by the National Education Association and the American Legion. Representatives of these organizations were concerned that a quarter of World War I draftees were illiterate, and they began a movement to raise awareness of the needs of public schools. Now in its 91st year, American Education Week is an annual reminder of the importance of community involvement in education.

As a former preschool teacher, I know firsthand of the challenges that face educators today. As classes grow and budgets shrink, teachers are often asked to do more with less. Nevertheless, millions of devoted Americans continue to serve our Nation's youth as teachers, administrators, and school personnel. I am continually impressed by their hard work and the tremendous impact they have on shaping future generations.

Ultimately, it is all of our responsibility to give our children a bright and well-rounded education. We all play a role in educating our Nation's children, from the parents who volunteer at school to community members who mentor and lead by example. During this month, let us also thank these dedicated individuals and encourage others to become similar community leaders as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in giving a heartfelt thank you to the hardworking teachers, school employees, mentors and parents of the 37th Congressional District as well as those across the nation. I encourage students, parents, and school officials to participate in the local events of American Education Week.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT TERRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor Albert Terry, for his track record in public service and his commitment to charity.

Albert Terry came to Brooklyn by way of North Carolina in January 1936 with his parents Martha and Caswell Terry and three sisters, Lucy, Dorothy, and Ethel. Shortly after settling in Brooklyn, he joined Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church and became active in the usher board, male chorus, senior choir, and briefly served as trustee.

Albert graduated from Boys High School in 1948. In September 1950 he met and married Zenith Tatum and had three children, Laura Denise, Albert Jr. and Douglas Clayton. He

and the family settled on Decatur Street where he joined the Decatur-Howard-Saratoga Block Association in October 1953. He was elected president, serving 1958–1959, then served again from 1983–1985.

From 1959 to 1967, Albert worked for the New York Transit Authority as a bus driver. In 1983 Albert was selected to join the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge. In July 1985, he joined the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Knights of the Mystic Shrine, Abu Bekr Temple No. 61 and served until 2005. He later worked briefly for Assemblyman William Boyland, Sr., going around to the various schools and day care centers to find out what they needed in the way of assistance or participating in events such as graduations and other affairs. Albert and Zenith celebrated 62 years of marriage on September 17, 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Albert Terry for his successful career and continued work in service to the community.

HONORING MARILYN R. FELTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Librarian, Marilyn Rankin Felton, who was born on July 30, 1962 in Natchez, Mississippi to Mr. Judge Rankin and Mrs. Annie James Rankin of Fayette, Mississippi. Her father worked as a farmer planting and growing the food that would feed the family, while her mother was an active part of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, faithfully fighting to secure the civil rights so that her children and others would have the right to a prosperous life. As a child being reared by a father who spent most of his life as a sharecropper and a mother who believed in fighting for the rights of others, she knew that hard work and dedication would play a significant role in her life.

She graduated from Jefferson County High School in 1980, after which she attended Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez, Mississippi for a short time. She set aside obtaining a college degree to work at a Wire Harness Plant in Fayette, Mississippi. She married Lee Felton in March 1984 and at the age of twenty-one, she realized the importance of the family. In doing so, she was blessed with three children to instill those same values in.

For the next six years, she would work at the Wire Harness, where she endured long hours of standing on concrete floors while working in a humid building that was sizzling hot during summer months and frigid cold during winter months. The Wire Harness Plant closed its door in 1990 and she used the fact that she was unemployed as an opportunity to continue her education.

Nevertheless, continuing her education was gradual because she worked at local stores as a cashier for the next few years; however, that did not fulfill her dream. In 1996 she returned to Copiah-Lincoln Community College to obtain a degree in Business Technology. In September 1997 her professional life provided her with an avenue to fulfill her dream of helping others when she was hired as a substitute Librarian with the Copiah-Jefferson Regional Library System (Fayette Branch). In September 1998, she was hired as the Branch Manager/Librarian.

In 1998, her mother, Mrs. Annie V. Rankin suddenly passed away and Marilyn knew she had to find a way to keep her mother's beliefs known, which she did by helping others. She successfully founded the Jefferson County Library Christmas Toy Drive in 2001 for underprivileged children of Jefferson Co. and surrounding areas. For ten years, the annual toy drive has been instrumental in providing an average of 200 children per year with toys for Christmas.

Her career as a Librarian has provided her an opportunity to visit libraries in the state of Mississippi, New Orleans, Louisiana, Lacrosse, Wisconsin and Rome, Italy. As a librarian, she has worked effortlessly to provide programs for children and adults at the Jefferson County Library as well as expose the patrons to various authors from Mississippi, Georgia, and Pennsylvania.

Marilyn cherishes the belief that learning is an ongoing process because she is presently a sophomore at Walden University, majoring in Child Development as she has maintained a 4.0 GPA since enrollment.

Nevertheless, the success of her life and career is to freely give of your wisdom and knowledge to those who need it and desire it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a librarian, Marilyn Rankin Felton, for her dedication to serving others.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE FISHMAN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Julie Fishman served as a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for almost four years, beginning in 2008. Managing my schedule and daily functions in both D.C. and in the District requires a great deal of organization and attention to detail, and Julie performed the role with precision and skill. Often the first point of contact for folks in the District, Julie endeared herself to the countless constituents with whom she interacted. During her tenure, Julie served in various roles, always willing and eager to learn new skills and further her professional development. Above all, Julie was a trusted, loyal and dedicated member of the team.

Julie should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Julie and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Julie Fishman for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND DR. J.H. FLAKES, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Johnny H. Flakes, Jr., an inspiring spiritual and community leader and the beloved Pastor of Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia for fifty-one years and Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Phenix City, Alabama for fifty-three years.

Sadly, Dr. Flakes passed away on Monday, November 12, 2012. His passing leaves a tremendous void in the hearts of his family, friends, and the Columbus and Phenix City communities. On Friday, November 16, 2012, a funeral service will be held in his honor at Fourth Street Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Dr. Flakes was born on January 12, 1934 in Phenix City, Alabama. His story is a truly inspiring one. As a young man, he dropped out of high school, married young, and was unable to adequately provide for his family due to alcohol and gambling addictions. However, he heard the sound of God's voice and answered the call, surrendering his life to Jesus Christ. He was called to the monumental task of pastoring two rapidly-growing churches in two different states. Even so, he still found the strength, discipline, and dedication to drive back and forth from Columbus to Nashville, Tennessee each week over four years to earn his GED and Bachelor of Arts degree from American Baptist College, for which he would later go on to serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and have the administration building on the school's campus named in his honor.

Throughout his pastoral career, always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Dr. Flakes became a leader in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, served as President of the Congress of Christian Education for the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia for many years and ultimately served on the Executive Committee Board of the National Baptist Convention. Dr. Flakes also received honorary doctorate degrees from A.B. Lee Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida and his alma mater, American Baptist College.

A fierce believer in equality and justice for all, Dr. Flakes was not only a profound theologian but also a strong civic leader. He served

as President of the Columbus branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for several years; was the President and Founder of ''A Call To Talk'' (ACTT); Chairman of One Columbus; and Chartering Pastor of the General Missionary Baptist Church Convention of West Germany.

He is also the recipient of the Outstanding Personality of the South Award; Ten Outstanding Ministers in the State of Georgia Award; Alpha Phi Alpha Martin Luther King Jr. Award; Operation PUSH Martin Luther King, Jr. Award; Jack T. Brinkley, Sr. Service Award, and the Knighthood Award from the Congress of Christian Education. In addition, Dr. Flakes was recently awarded the Whitney M. Young Service Award by the Boy Scouts of America Chattahoochee Council for his support of Scouting in the community.

On a personal note, I have been truly blessed by Dr. Flakes' spiritual counsel and guidance over the twenty-four years I was a member of Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church. His courage, perseverance, and dedication to his church and his Savior will always be a source of inspiration for me. Dr. Flakes was an outstanding man of God who, through his deep and abiding faith, made a tremendous impact on his community. He will truly be missed but his unwavering spirit will live on through the many whose lives were touched and inspired by this remarkable man.

Dr. George Washington Carver once said, ''No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it.'' We are so blessed that Dr. Johnny Flakes, Jr. passed this way and shared with us his legacy of service that will stand the test of time.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the almost 700,000 people in the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia, would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Flakes' wife of more than fifty-seven years, Robena Gaines Flakes, their three children Sincera, Johnny and Merle, their grandchildren, and the members of Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church and Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

TRIBUTE TO PERCEL JONES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Percel Jones. It is an honor to represent Mr. Jones in the House of Representatives and I call on my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to such an outstanding citizen.

Bro. Percel Jones was born in Camden, NC to the late Ida Mae Jones Gregory. He was raised by his great grandmother, Ida Mae Dough Jones who also raised his mother. He is the oldest of eight, with six sisters and one brother. He is the father of three sons and has seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. After attending public school in North Carolina, he served four years in the United States Air Force where he went to cooking school. With on the job training, he learned to cook for as many as 2,500 people.

In 1961, he moved to Brooklyn, NY where he applied his skills in restaurants, school lunchrooms and New York hospitals. In 1967, he began employment with the New York City Transit Authority as a conductor, was elevated to motorman and retired as a motor instructor after 24 years, 3 months, and 7 days on the job. He is a member of Berean Baptist church where he serves faithfully as an usher. In 1973, he entered, passed and was raised to a master mason in African 459 Lodge #63, PHA.

In 1974, he became a member of Long Island Consistory #61. In 1975, he joined Mt. Moriah Chapter #3 R.A.M. He was created in ABU BEKR Temple #91 A.E.A.O.N.M.S. of North and South American Jurisdiction. In August of 2009, he received his Honorary Past Potentate degree. In May of 2011, he was elevated to the 33rd and last degree of masonry, the United Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry P.H.A. of the Northern Jurisdiction in Denver, CO. At the 119th Imperial Council Session A.E.A.O.N.M.S. Inc. held in New Orleans, LA in August of 2012, he received his Legion of Honor Certificate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Percel Jones.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY SHEEHAN MARTIN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Kelly Sheehan Martin began serving on my District staff when I first took office. Kelly helped to establish our office early on as being a source of relief to those having trouble with the Social Security Administration. Kelly then moved into coordinating Grants and Special Projects. She did a tremendous job in leading such efforts as a Regional Jobs Fair that publicized well over 600 available jobs during the height of the recession, providing access and hope to constituents and many more throughout Western North Carolina.

Kelly should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Kelly and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Kelly Sheehan Martin for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING EURO-AMERICAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND ARTIST KENYA R. TAYLOR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I honor Kenya R. Taylor, a hardworking and talented artist who also serves as the Euro-American Women's Council's Creative Director. The Euro-American Women's Council was founded sixteen years ago on the principles of endorsing high ranking professional women from around the world while promoting their strong family values. As a professional accomplished artist who took these values to heart, Kenya joined the Euro-American Women's Council in 2008, bringing his artistic, gifted, and innovative talent to the organization.

Kenya's talents were first recognized at the age of five, when he was enrolled in his first art program at the Edith K. Bergtraum Elementary School in Flushing, New York. It was at this school where Kenya first learned how to paint portraits and still-lifes. Kenya quickly became known as an artist and was often asked to do special works for the school, some of which are still hanging today. However, this was just the beginning of Kenya's talent, continuing to middle school and influencing his later decision to enroll at the renowned High School of Art and Design in New York City where he studied Advanced Placement Environmental Science in addition to Architectural Design. During these high school years, Kenya also immersed himself in classes at the distinguished Parsons School of Design where he then continued his studies as an undergraduate. It was at the Parsons School of Design where he began to branch out into other forms of design such as graphic design, web design, and industrial design.

Upon graduation, Kenya became a graphic designer, and further proved his artistic talent through a vast portfolio of work ranging from television to fashion. He has also designed pieces for a variety of American political families including the Clintons and the Bushes. But after the birth of his two children, Kenya chose to move out of the spotlight to start a career that allowed him to be closer with his family.

For the past four years, Kenya's role as the Euro-American Women's Council Creative Director has allowed him full oversight and vision of the organization's design components including invitations, programs, and the website. One of his most significant accomplishments since joining the Euro-American Women's Council was working on EAWC's Silk Books commemorating 16 years of the organization's accomplishments. These banners were on display at this year's Goddess Artemis Awards and Global Business Forum,

allowing leaders from all over the world to see his amazing artwork. Kenya continues to work tirelessly as he continues to create beautiful designs as the Creative Director, often with his children by his side. In appreciation for all of the incredible work by Kenya R. Taylor, I am proud to honor him today in Congress and look forward to his future artistic and creative achievements.

HONORING DOUBLE DY EXPRESS FOR ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ITS COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a minority-owned business, Double Dy Express of Tutwiler, Mississippi. Owned and operated by Ms. Diana Pimpton, this establishment has provided great services to the Tutwiler community for years.

As a lifelong resident of Tutwiler, Ms. Pimpton wanted to introduce something new to her community; therefore she combined the likes of a convenience store and soul food restaurant. Bringing Double Dy Express to Tutwiler not only provided the community with its first soul food eatery, but also helped bring new jobs to the area. Pimpton's restaurant provided jobs to residents as cooks, cashiers, and maintenance workers. In addition, she gave students within the community their first job experience.

Pimpton's will to give back and help her community is credited with inspiring other minorities in the area to open up their own businesses. Ms. Pimpton, credits her own family and friends to her survival as a business owner. She has said, "This has not been an easy task but I am grateful and thank God for what I have already accomplished and continue to strive towards in future."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Double Dy Express for its contributions to the community.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY MISSELWITZ

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Kelly Misselwitz joined my Washington, D.C. staff in January of 2011. I often receive thousands of pieces of constituent correspondence each week, and with Kelly's care and correspondence management, we were always able to ensure that constituents received responses to their ideas and concerns in a timely, thoughtful and thorough manner. I cannot count the number of times constituents approached me on the sidewalk, in church or at local events to express their gratitude for the personal and comprehensive responses they received. I was always quick to brag on Kelly's critical role in making our constituent correspondence program a success. Kelly also served as a Legislative Assistant, proving herself to have excellent research and analytical skills, key to advising any Member of Congress. What Kelly may be known for most, however, is her sharp sense of humor that we all have truly missed since her departure in August of this year.

Kelly should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Kelly and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Kelly Misselwitz for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING WORK OF DISTRICT II SUPERVISOR, LYLE TURPIN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work of District II Supervisor, Lyle Turpin. Lyle served as Mariposa County District II Planning Commissioner from 2001–2007. He was elected and served as District II Supervisor from 2005–2012 and was acting Chair in 2008. Lyle's list of service accomplishments attests to his commitment as a distinguished member of our community.

Mr. Turpin was a member of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and served the county as a member of the following committees: Coulterville Service Area Number One Advisory Board, Coulterville Town Planning Advisory Council, Greeley Hill Planning Advisory Committee, Lake Don Pedro Service Area 1–M Advisory Board, Local Transportation Commission Technical Advisory Committee, and Pedestrian and Equestrian Trails Advisory Board.

In addition to his tireless work on various county committees, Lyle served on the following agencies and Board of Directors: Calaveras-Mariposa Community Action Agency, Mountain Counties Air Basin, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Area, Tuolumne/Mariposa County Resource Advisory Committee, and Agriculture and the Natural Resources—CSAC.

Mr. Turpin has spent his time as Supervisor dedicated to the following county projects: The General Plan; Coulterville and Mariposa Town Drainage Study; Yosemite West Community Plan; SilverTip Resort project amended site plan, Catheys Valley Community Plan; construction of the new Human Services facility; zoning amendments; the acquisition of new fire trucks and water tenders; construction and funding for three new fire stations; obtaining a Fixed Base Operator to oversee the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport operations; construction of the Red Cloud Library; improvements to the Midpines Park; Airport improvement projects; the Seventh Day Adventist Camp project; Lake Don Pedro Wastewater Treatment Facility; the MOU with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the County of Mariposa for the continued use of the historic Mariposa County Courthouse Superior Court; completion of the Solid Waste Compost facility; fuel load reduction projects; road maintenance projects; Agrinature and Agri-tourism policy; Foresta Community Wildfire Protection Plan; Williamson Act/historical parcels; and the AB 885 statewide issue relative to well and septic inspections.

Lyle remains active in the community, attending many local community organization events and fundraisers. He has helped the community contend with the impacts of the Ferguson rock slide disaster of 2006, the horrific Oliver and Telegraph Fires of 2008, the Big Meadow Fire of 2009, the 2011 Motor Fire in El Portal, and damages associated with the rains in late December 2010—including Ben Hur Road. He also helped to establish the separate Human Services/Risk Management department and implement the paperless agenda management system for the Mariposa Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring District II Supervisor Lyle Turpin for his outstanding commitment to serve his community. Mr. Turpin is a true public servant, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO GARY A. WRIGHT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Mr. Gary A. Wright. It is an honor to represent Mr. Wright in the House of Representatives and I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to such an outstanding citizen.

Mr. Wright was born in Brooklyn, NY. He was the 3rd of six children of the late George Wright and Jerline Wright. He attended and graduated from Boy's High School. Following graduation, he took an interest in photography which gave him the opportunity to work in such communities as Brownsville, East New York and Bedford Stuyvesant. He also joined the New York City Auxiliary Police Force. In 1968, he joined the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and worked at Kennedy Airport.

He received certificates of appreciation for providing technical instruction during the General Maintainer and Driver Training (CDL) programs, a world trade center award for exceptional service and the world trade center 9/11

responder award. He currently resides with his wife Edith and family in New Jersey.

Mr. Wright was elevated and raised in African Lodge 459 #63 in 1979. Became a member of the Long Island Consistory No. 61 A.A.S.R. and is also a member of the Medina Temple No.19 A.E.A.O.M.S.

May our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of committed and laudable citizens such as Mr. Wright.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Bro. Gary A. Wright for his tremendous contributions to the community.

HONORING KEVIN O'HANLON

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Kevin O'Hanlon served in various positions both in my Washington, D.C. office and on my campaign, and has excelled in each capacity during his nearly four-year tenure. Kevin has earned a reputation for being dependable, meticulous and for always being willing to chip in however needed. While outside of his job description, Kevin was also appreciated for his technical expertise, which became invaluable to the office as he solved technical issue after technical issue, keeping our team up and running time and again. Above all, I could always count on Kevin to assist with a helping hand, regardless of the issue or the time of day or night that he was needed. I extend my thanks to his wife, Liz, for her patience for the many times Kevin worked long or irregular hours to keep our congressional office humming along smoothly.

Kevin should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Kevin and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Kevin O'Hanlon for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 604 regarding the "Streamlining Claims Processing for Federal Contractor Employees Act" (H.R. 6371). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING TONY'S GROCERY FOR REMAINING A STAPLE IN THE MAYERSVILLE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a thriving business in the Mayersville, Mississippi for more than fifty years, Tony's Grocery.

Founded by husband and wife duo, Saul "Tony" and Edie B. Williams, Tony's Grocery has served as the oldest and only store in the town of Mayersville. With more than five decades in business, Tony's Grocery has employed many citizens of the Mayersville community.

Presently, owned and operated by Mayor Linda Short, daughter of Saul and Edie B, and her husband Larry Short, Tony's Grocery is the classic example of a small business weathering the test of time and still managing to provide so much for the residents of its community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tony's Grocery for its longevity and dedication to serving Mayersville, Mississippi.

HONORING BOYCE DEITZ

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Boyce Deitz has served as a member my District staff since I first took office. Boyce's presence in my life has been a blessing for years, beginning first as my high school football coach and mentor and now, more importantly, as a friend and confidant. As the roles reversed and Coach Deitz spent the past six years as a Field Representative in my Congressional District office, I was reminded daily of Coach's dedication and drive to do everything possible to always meet the need and fix the problem of everyone who walked into his office. We have spent many days traveling the rural areas of Western North Carolina knocking on doors, visiting farms, watching football practices, and just enjoying talking with the fine people who call Western North Carolina home. Without the support of people like Boyce the past six years would have never been possible.

Boyce should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Boyce and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Boyce Deitz for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING TOM PLIMPTON

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent and friend, Tom Plimpton. I have known Tom for a number of years as a friend and former colleague, and I want to congratulate him on his induction into the St. Lawrence University Hall of Fame.

A distinguished lawyer in Upstate New York, I want to take this opportunity to not just acknowledge his academic, legal, and personal successes, but recognize his athletic achievements as a part of the 1987 Men's Track and Field Team at St. Lawrence University.

As a member of the St. Lawrence University 1987 Men's Track and Field team he contributed to their win in the second-ever New York State Collegiate Indoor Championship and the first New York State Outdoor title. He then went on to help his team finish second in the NCAA Division III Indoor Championship. For his efforts in the 400 meter team relay, Tom earned All American honors.

Again, I congratulate Tom on this prestigious distinction and wish him all the best.

TRIBUTE TO ENRIQUE "TITO" OSBORNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Enrique Osborne.

Enrique, known affectionately as "Tito," migrated to Brooklyn, New York from Panama at the age of 13 in 1950. After Enrique graduated

from High School he joined the United States Air Force and after his service he worked as a supervisor for the Advertising Distributors of America. He later worked for the New York City Transit Authority until his retirement.

In 1975, Tito was made a master mason in the Jessie Milton Lodge #70, King Solomon affiliation. Twelve years later, he joined African Lodge 459 #63, where he has served continuously and is currently a trustee.

A father of six, Gloria Louisa, Carlos, Antonio, Joseph, April and Gloria, and grandfather of ten, Tito still finds the time to be the President of the Bug Pack, a Philadelphia Volkswagen Club, and a member of the Ebony Rod and Gun Club.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Enrique ''Tito'' Osborne for his contribution to our community of Brooklyn.

HONORING ANDREW TULLY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Tully. Andrew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 414, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Andrew has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and the God and Country Award. Andrew has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Andrew completed many renovations at the First Baptist Church of Bogard, Missouri, including a utility room, handrails, enclosed an exterior staircase, and other small projects to help congregants enter and use the church facility.

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

HONORING DR. FRANK NICKELL

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Frank Nickell, professor of history at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. For four decades, he has served as an educator, a passionate chronicler of regional history, and an ambassador for the university in the surrounding community.

First hired by the university in 1969, Professor Nickell has won praise for his work in the classroom. After decades of inspiring students, he received statewide recognition in 1992, as one of 47 educators from Missouri higher education institutions awarded a Governor's Award for Excellence in teaching. In 2009, Southeast Missouri State honored him with the Provost's Research Instruction and Development for Excellence (PRIDE) Award. The latter award recognizes excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.

In these last two categories, scholarship and service, Nickell has gone above and beyond his responsibilities in the classroom. An avid promoter of regional history, he helped initiate the university's Historic Preservation program, through which undergraduate and graduate students work to preserve the area's historic sites, artifacts, and cultures. In 2007, he helped launch and became host of Southeast Public Radio's ''Almost Yesterday'' series, which takes listeners back in time to specific moments in regional history. After just one year on air, the program won the station its first-ever Missouri Broadcaster Association Award.

For his many achievements and his unwavering commitment to the people and history of Southeast Missouri, I thank Frank and wish him well as he enjoys his retirement.

RECOGNIZING HONDA ON THIRTY YEARS OF AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I congratulate Honda on its thirtieth anniversary as an automobile manufacturer in the United States.

Honda became the first Japanese automaker to manufacture cars in the U.S. on November 1, 1982, when the first U.S.-made Honda Accord rolled off the assembly line in Marysville, Ohio. In the three decades since, the company has become one of our Nation's most important job creators, investing more than $12.5 billion in the U.S.—$1.2 billion in just the last two years. This investment has supported not only Honda's 26,000 U.S. employees—more than 13,500 in Ohio alone—but also hundreds of thousands of jobs at suppliers and servicers nationwide.

Honda marked its anniversary by announcing more than $200 million in new investments at its transmission manufacturing facility in Russells Point, Ohio, and its engine plant in Anna, Ohio. Two hundred new manufacturing jobs will be created at those plants as a result.

Mr. Speaker, Honda's commitment to Ohio dates back to 1979, when small-scale dirt bike production began in Marysville. The company has been a dedicated partner to communities throughout our State and Nation ever since, creating highly skilled jobs and revolutionizing domestic auto manufacturing.

I offer my congratulations to everyone at Honda as they celebrate this milestone. They have my very best wishes for continued excellence in automobile manufacturing and job creation.

HONORING THE SERENE LODGE #567 IMPROVED BENEVOLENT PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF THE WORLD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Serene Lodge #567 Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World (I.B.P.O.E. of the W.). The Serene Lodge #567, Greenville, Mississippi was organized on March 10, 1924 by Carlos C. Valle Grand Organizer.

The Elks is the oldest African American, fraternal organization, which reaches from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. The first Elks Home was at the Miller Home, corner of Nelson and Broadway Street. In later years the group moved to a number of places including 329 North Broadway, 346 Catley Street, 613 Nelson Street, 328 Theobald Street, 420 Muscadine Street, 727 Nelson Street, 349 Catley Street and thence to home at 1822 East Alexander Street. The mortgage was burned in 1974. During the years of hard work, some of the accomplishments were: Membership of 300, the largest in history; and annual donations of $100 for Christmas baskets for the aged and indent; and yearly donations of $1,000 to sick and distress Brothers; and donations to the Community Fund Drive; and donations to park and playground projects; and sponsored a Little League Baseball Team; and presented a flag pole and plaques to Coleman High School; and donated towards the purchase of curtains and piano for Lucy Webb School.

Levye Chapple, at the age of 23 was the youngest Exalted Ruler in the United States. He was the first to place strong emphasis upon attracting young people into the Elkdom and soared the membership far over 150 during his administration. It was during this period that the Daughter Elks Temple came into being with Daughter (Dtr.) Julia Thornton as the first Daughter Ruler whose emphasis upon young people was as equally strong.

Today, the Lodge continues to do work in the community and surrounding areas. Along with the Daughters, they have adopted a park and started a back to school supply give-away to over 300 children, this project was initiated approximately four years ago. Several of the Brothers have received their Past Grand Degree, which is the highest honor in Elkdom. The Lodge continues to initiate young men into the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Serene Lodge #567 I.B.P.O. of the W. for their leadership and dedication to serving their community and surrounding areas.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF CITYHOOD FOR BEAUMONT, CA

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the city of Beaumont,

California, which will celebrate its centennial on Nov. 18, 2012.

In 1927, ten years after its incorporation, Beaumont boasted a population of 857. Today, it's a community of nearly 40,000 people, all of whom I've been proud to represent in Congress for the last ten years.

Much of this growth has happened in the last ten years. Residents flocked to Beaumont for its low housing costs, causing a 20% jump in the city's population, an increase that made it the fastest growing city in the State. What began as a railway outpost at the summit of San Gorgonio Pass has become a vibrant, progressive city that retains its small-town feel.

I proudly salute Beaumont's founders who laid the foundation for what has become a city that upholds the core values of public service. They're a shining example of local government at its best, and I hope my colleagues will join me in extending our best wishes to Beaumont on this most memorable occasion.

TRIBUTE TO CHAD EATON

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

I recruited Chad Eaton to join my District staff in January of 2009. Having first met Chad through his service to both our families' church as the Associate Pastor at Biltmore Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina, I was already well familiar with his commitment to personal and professional excellence. In the several years that have passed since we first met in 2005, I continue to be impressed by Chad's devotion to family, faith and public service. Chad's character and moral compass inspire his daily actions both inside and outside of our duties as a Congressional office, earning him my deepest respect and also the respect and appreciation of colleagues and constituents alike.

Not a day goes by without my leaning on Chad in some capacity. Chad is a loyal, honorable and trusted companion and I consider his counsel and friendship a blessing in my life. No matter where the Good Lord's plans take us in the future, I look forward to many more years of our continued friendship.

Chad should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Chad and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Chad Eaton for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING KOLBY DEAN GOFF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kolby Dean Goff. Kolby is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 418, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kolby has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kolby has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kolby has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Kolby designed and constructed an outdoor classroom at his sister's elementary school, building a nature learning center and an life-size outdoor checkerboard.

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

HONORING ED PAVIA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Ed Pavia joined my Washington, D.C. office in January 2012, as he was completing his Masters in Appropriate Technology (renewable energy engineering) from Appalachian State University. It became apparent immediately that because of his understanding of energy and agriculture issues he would be a valuable addition to our team. New to Capitol Hill, Ed quickly learned the ropes and has been entrusted to serve in a variety of capacities, including work as a Research Fellow, Legislative Assistant and Executive Assistant. Ed's attention to detail, knowledge of policy issues and disciplined work ethic have proven to be invaluable assets.

Ed should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Ed and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Ed Pavia for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN HOPE, MAINE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a school in my district for being selected by the U.S. Department of Education as one of only 269 Blue Ribbon Schools nationwide this year.

With 176 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, Hope Elementary in Knox County, Maine, is a small school doing big things. Foremost, the school has consistently met high standards of academic excellence. In itself, this achievement is worthy of honors.

But Hope Elementary has also excelled in teaching lessons in leadership. The school has an active student council, a leadership group that focuses on community service, and a culture where older students are expected to be leaders for their younger peers. Moreover, staff and administration set a strong example of collaboration. Immersed in this kind of environment, Hope students learn from an early age the importance of working together to move the whole community forward. This is an essential lesson for our next generation of leaders, and I truly appreciate the school's commitment to fostering it.

Being named a Blue Ribbon School is a prestigious honor, and the entire Hope Elementary community should be proud. This achievement belongs to the administration, teachers, students, families, and town as a whole. I am proud to have this excellent school in my district and they have my warmest congratulations.

HONORING UNITED MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable small family owned business, United Management & Development Associates, Inc. It is a real estate development and property management firm. The company's portfolio consists of properties that are financed by the United States Department of Agriculture—Rural Development, Housing and Urban Development, and properties that receive low income housing tax credits. They provide their residential clients with a multitude of services like budget counseling, GED preparation through a partnership with Coahoma Community College, life skills, health and wellness activities, and home ownership preparation.

Jeffrey Gooden is the president. He was educated in the Clarksdale Public School System. He received a Bachelors of Business Administration Degree majoring in Banking and Finance and Managerial Finance from the University of Mississippi in 1992. He is a licensed real estate broker in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas. He holds several real estate designations including the following: Certified Manager, Certified Property Manager, Certified Commercial Investment Member, National Association of Realtors, National Association of Realtors Green Resource Council, and Graduate of Realtor's Institute.

Jeffrey is a second generation real estate professional. His father, the late Bennie Stone Gooden, was a developer and manager of affordable housing properties, who started United Management & Development in the 1980's. His father's vision was to improve the quality of life in the Mississippi Delta. After his father's death, Jeffrey and his family continues the Gooden family's legacy.

Jeffrey works with his sister, Marian Gooden Miller, and his brother, James Norvell Gooden. The three of them have expanded the company's services and vision. Norvell is both a licensed real estate and insurance agent in Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas. Marian is a licensed real estate agent. United Management & Development Associates, Inc. provide full real estate brokerage services and insurance products.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing United Management & Development Associates, Inc. for providing decent and affordable housings for the Mississippi Delta.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WELTON I. TAYLOR

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Welton I. Taylor, Ph.D. A distinguished scientist, WWII liaison pilot, and civil rights advocate, Dr. Taylor died in Chicago on November 1, 2012, just 11 days shy of his 93rd birthday. Born November 12, 1919, in Birmingham, Alabama, to Frederick Enslen Taylor and Cora Lee Brewer, Taylor was still an infant when his family fled to Chicago as a result of an ultimatum his mother received from the Ku Klux Klan. Throughout Dr. Taylor's life, the story of his family's trauma fueled his desire to succeed in every endeavor and to fight racism wherever he found it.

Graduating from DuSable High School as class Valedictorian in 1937, Dr. Taylor attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign thanks to scholarships from the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. In his senior year he became the first black cadet in the University of Illinois' Advanced ROTC Field Artillery Unit. He graduated in 1941 with an A.B. in Bacteriology and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery. Only 28 days after following orders to report for active duty at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Taylor became the first black field artillery officer in the history of the post.

Taylor had always dreamt of becoming a pilot, however, and when a flight instructor at the Lawton, Oklahoma airfield offered to teach him, he jumped at the chance. Taylor took lessons during his off-duty hours and was rewarded when the Army subsequently sent him to the Second Army Air Force's Pittsburg, Kansas flight school to become a Field Artillery liaison pilot. Taylor was eventually deployed to the South Pacific with the all-black 596th Field Artillery Battalion, 93rd Infantry Division and flew liaison and reconnaissance missions in the South Pacific until the end of World War II.

During his 5½ years of service, Taylor boldly challenged institutional racism in the Army at every turn—most notably protesting the Army's discriminatory practices regarding the admission of black officers to the officers' clubs. Taylor suffered numerous racial affronts during active duty, but still joined the Illinois National Guard Reserves at the end of the war, rising to the rank of Major before resigning his commission in 1952.

Upon his return stateside, Taylor married his longtime girlfriend, Jayne Kemp Taylor, a graduate of Howard University. The couple entered the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign shortly thereafter to pursue their graduate degrees where Taylor earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in Bacteriology on the G.I. Bill. While on campus, the couple teamed with white veterans and their wives to force the integration of local restaurants, movie theaters, and swimming pools. Champaign-Urbana was changed forever by their efforts, and when the Taylors returned to Chicago after graduation, they continued their civil rights activism. They became one of the first black families to integrate the Chatham neighborhood on Chicago's South Side and Dr. Taylor played an active role in civic life. He served as President of the Chatham Avalon Park Community Council, founded the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, and received the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

As a scientist, Dr. Taylor had a remarkable career spanning close to fifty years. He taught microbiology at the medical schools of both the University of Illinois and Northwestern University, did ground-breaking research on bacteriological contamination in the nation's food supply, helped France and Britain eradicate Salmonella in their imported foods, became microbiologist-in-chief at Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital, and served as consulting microbiologist to Resurrection Hospital and eleven other hospitals in the Chicago area. He earned four patents, published forty articles in scientific journals (becoming the first black editor of several of them), and developed a product adopted by the Food & Drug Administration, which is still used today by microbiology laboratories the world over to certify foods Salmonella-free. In 1985, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta named a bacterium Enterobacter taylorae in honor of Dr. Taylor and a British colleague.

Following the death of his wife, Jayne, in 2005, Dr. Taylor joined the Chicago "DODO" Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. to once again pursue his lifelong passion: flying. Always one of the organization's most vocal and articulate supporters, Taylor helped fellow pilots introduce inner-city children to the joys and challenges of flight. He lectured extensively to corporate, civic, and academic groups across the Midwest and spoke passionately about the triumphs and frustrations faced by the Tuskegee Airmen and other black servicemen during World War II. Taylor received the Congressional Gold Medal with the Tuskegee Airmen in Washington, DC in 2006.

Fully committed to educating succeeding generations, Dr. Taylor published his long-awaited memoir and history, Two Steps from Glory, in July of 2012. He proudly unveiled it at the huge air show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin (EAA Airventure), just days before being diagnosed with the cancer that took his life.

Dr. Taylor is survived by his daughters, Karyn and Shelley, by his nephew, Herbert Wallace, and his niece, Frances Austin.

On behalf of my wife Carolyn and the constituents of Illinois' First Congressional District, I extend my condolences to Dr. Taylor's family and I want for them to know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING DENNIS BERMAN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my district office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide excellent constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the exceptional assistance so many have come to expect in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Dennis Berman played a valuable role as a volunteer during my first two terms in office. Dennis offered a calm and reassuring voice to constituents as they would call our District office with concerns and needs. His ability to

quickly diagnose the problem the individual had encountered allowed him to connect constituents with the proper staff member to begin the task of resolving the issue.

Dennis should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Dennis and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Dennis Berman for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $ 10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $16,244,014,083,153.54. We've added $5,617,137,034,240.46 to our debt in 3 years. This is $5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO DODIE COLLINS

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Dodie Collins has served as a member of my District staff since July of 2011. Dodie came out of retirement from a career with the State of North Carolina to bring added expertise to my District office in an array of areas. Dodie's addition enabled our office to provide increased and expedited assistance by working directly with our State of North Carolina contacts when casework called for a state-directed resolution. Through Dodie's strong grasp of casework management she was able to direct constituents in the appropriate direction, ensuring a more timely and successful outcome for many.

Dodie should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Dodie and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Dodie and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Dodie Collins for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ENSURE THAT THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY COMPLIES WITH THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to require the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) to adopt the Federal Acquisition Regulations, the set of rules that govern all aspects of the acquisition process for virtually every federal executive branch agency. Significant failures in MWAA's contracting policies and practices point to a need for substantial reform in MWAA's acquisition process. However, despite being created by Congress, leasing federally owned land, and benefiting from significant federal taxpayer funds, MWAA is not subject to federal procurement laws or regulation. This oversight has left MWAA without ample guidance for its board members and employees. Many of the problems that have drawn criticism of MWAA could be eliminated if the Federal Acquisition Regulations were made applicable.

MWAA is an independent public body created by Congress under the Metropolitan Washington Airports Act of 1986 (Airports Act), which authorized a compact between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia. MWAA, with 1,400 employees, leases and manages Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport. In addition to managing airports, MWAA is responsible for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, with an estimated cost of $5.8 billion, including $977 million in federal funds.

A recent Department of Transportation (DOT) Inspector General report, ''MWAA's Weak Policies and Procedures Have Led to Questionable Procurement Practices, Mismanagement, and a Lack of Overall Accountability'' (Report Number: AV–2013–006) (IG Report), found that ''MWAA's contracting policies and practices are insufficient to ensure compliance with the Airports Act and the lease agreement between DOT and MWAA.'' For example, the Airports Act and lease agreement require MWAA to award contracts over $200,000 competitively to the maximum extent practicable. However, the IG Report found that MWAA recently awarded two-thirds of its contracts exceeding $200,000 with limited competition. The IG Report also noted that MWAA awarded many contracts with no formal solicitation, and that MWAA's Contracting Manual does not require public notification of sole-source contracts over $200,000.

The lack of transparency and competition on MWAA contracts is inconsistent with continuing ownership of the airports by the federal government, MWAA's creation by Congress, and the significant federal taxpayer dollars for which MWAA is responsible. The IG Report's conclusion that current procurement procedures are inadequate requires a response that definitively settles the procurement issues surrounding MWAA. It makes no sense for MWAA to attempt to reinvent a new set of procurement procedures and ignore the very thorough and tested Federal Acquisition Regulations, which provides legal guidelines for every aspect of procurement and that maximizes fairness and transparency.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill. I will seek passage before the end of the lame duck.

TRIBUTE TO ARLENE GONZÁLEZ-SÁNCHEZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez, a visionary leader in our community and an inspiration to all of New York.

Ms. González-Sánchez brings more than 30 years experience in the field of behavioral health administration, policy development, medical research, and expertise integrating accessible systems of care for New Yorkers. She is a Cabinet-level, Chief Executive Officer overseeing a premier addiction services system with more than 1,500 programs and 35,000 paid and volunteer professionals which serve 110,000 New Yorkers daily.

Ms. González-Sánchez possesses a Masters of Social Work degree in Administration/Community Organization from Hunter College School of Social Work, as well as a Masters of Science degree in Cell Biology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Fordham University. She is a licensed Masters Social Worker.

As Commissioner of the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, OASAS, her overall vision is to transform the fragmented system of care to a comprehensive, integrated, patient-centered, family-focused system that is accessible and responsive to the multiple and complex needs of the behavioral health population of today. Under her executive leadership, she has established the Enhanced Oversight and Monitoring Initiative to improve programmatic and fiscal accountability and quality service delivery throughout the OASAS system.

Before coming to OASAS, Ms. González-Sánchez was Commissioner of the newly merged Nassau County Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities with the Nassau County Department of Drug and Alcohol Addiction Services in Long Island. Ms. González-Sánchez also held a faculty appointment at Cornell University Medical College as an Associate Research Scientist where she spent eight years

in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy working on cardiac and molecular biology research. She has numerous publications in medical journals and textbooks and has received recognition for her early work on DNA sequencing and cloning.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Commissioner González-Sánchez for her work ensuring high-quality care and services for the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT VERNELLA WELLS FOR HER DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO THIS COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable young woman, Lieutenant Vernella N. Wells of Clarksdale, Mississippi. Born to the proud parents of Troy and Arcola Holmes, Wells has dedicated her life to being a beacon of service to her community and country.

First Lieutenant Wells began her military career in August 2003 as a Private First Class in the Mississippi Army National Guard, assigned to the 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team in Tupelo, Mississippi. Immediately after graduating high school, she was sent to Basic Training followed by Advanced Individual Training in Fort Lee, Virginia, before serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom from September 2004–January 2006.

Upon returning from Iraq, she enrolled at the University of Mississippi and joined their Army ROTC program, where she received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Exercise Science.

In 2010, Wells was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Mississippi Army National Guard and is currently assigned to the Adjutant General's Branch, where she is the Strength Manager and Company Executive Officer for the 155th Brigade Combat Team of Tupelo, Mississippi.

She is responsible for the overall readiness of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program in North Mississippi. Wells is also spearheading the development of a program that is designed to bring local community resources and volunteers in to help enrich the lives of the Citizen Soldiers on and off duty.

In addition to commitment towards her country, Wells is also very active in her community. Her humanitarian work has included; volunteering at the Veterans Administration Nursing Home, Baptist Memorial HealthPlex, Baptist Memorial Out-Patient Physical Therapy Clinic, United Way of Oxford-Lafayette County Food Pantry, the Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity fundraising, and just recently as team leader for the "Big Event" community wide volunteer project. In addition, Wells is currently pursuing a MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Administration.

Lieutenant Wells has also garnered multiple awards and decorations from her tireless efforts in the National Guard. Some of these honors include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Mississippi Medal of Efficiency, Mississippi War Medal, and the Mississippi Longevity Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing 1st Lieutenant Vernella N. Wells for her dedication and commitment to this nation and her community.

TRIBUTE TO ERICA EDWARD

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Erica Edwards has served as a member of my District staff since October of 2008. Erica provided valuable guidance to individuals seeking assistance from the Social Security Administration. Erica's background working with the Department of Social Services at the county level provided our constituents with an additional level of expertise and hands-on experience to effectively serve a broader spectrum of constituents in their greatest time of need.

Erica should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Erica and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Erica and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Erica Edwards for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING MRS. NANCY PENN PENSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Mrs. Nancy Penn Penson, a longtime lover of the arts and an acclaimed tennis player. Mrs. Penson, a Dallas native, passed away on Sunday, October 21, 2012 at the age of 88. Mrs. Penson is survived by her husband Lieutenant John G. Penson, three daughters, Annie Vreeland, Suki Jarzemsky, and Read Gendler, and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Penson was highly respected and well known throughout the Dallas community. She graduated with a Degree in Classics from Wellesley College in 1945. Her love for the arts was ignited at an early age when her mother would take her to the symphony. Mrs. Penson held numerous leadership positions such as co-founder of the Dallas Tennis Association, President of the Junior League, and board member of the Dallas Bach Society, the New Dallas Conservatory, and the Southern Methodist University Meadows School of Arts.

In addition to her passion for the arts and her many philanthropic efforts, Mrs. Penson was an accomplished tennis player. She was nationally ranked #1 in Senior Women's Tennis and was inducted into the Texas Tennis Hall of Fame in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to lose such an integral member of the Dallas community. Her selfless contributions to arts and charity groups have touched the lives of many. While the Dallas community will certainly miss Mrs. Penson, her memory will live on in the hearts and minds of those whose lives she has touched over the years.

HONORING BLAKELY WHILDEN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Blakely Whilden was the Field Director for my first campaign in 2006. Following the campaign she served as a member of my D.C. staff for much of my first term. Blakely helped manage and organize the office, and always with efficiency and friendliness. Having grown up in the 11th Congressional District, Blakely was proud to help represent her hometown District in our nation's Capitol. She was especially passionate about issues surrounding higher education and focused on policies that would help to ensure that all students have access to a high-quality, affordable education.

Blakely should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Blakely and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Blakely Whilden for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

J.C. BURNHAM—TEXAN TO THE BONE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, JC Burnham of Liberty, Texas. A fine businessman, rancher, husband, father, friend and devoted family man, who spent his entire life serving his community while striving to make others happy. The City of Liberty and, indeed, the entire state of Texas lost a dedicated community leader, as well as friend, on October 30, 2012.

JC was born December 15, 1937, in Houston, Texas. He was truly a remarkable Texan who achieved extraordinary things in his career and for his community. Hard work and love of his community earned him enduring respect amongst the many touched by his deeds. It is an honor to recognize the great contributions that JC made to the city of Liberty, Liberty County, and the great State of Texas.

As a child, JC began his working life at Stubbs Grocery Store. In high school he was both a good student and athlete. He went on to attend College at my alma mater, the University of Houston. After graduation, JC got his foot in the door in the auto industry by working in the mailroom at General Motors. Through JC's hard work and dedication he held eleven different positions within General Motors, eventually owning his own dealership.

In 1973, he purchased Mearns Chevrolet in Liberty, Texas, a close-knit city near Houston. For over 30 years, his family owned business, thrived. He even added an Oldsmobile-Cadillac and a Buick-Pontiac-GMC store. JC was a man of true character and a Liberty resident for over 39 years, his Texas spirit and love of the community made him a natural promoter of Liberty, Texas.

Not only was JC a dedicated businessman, he also had a long career in public service. Throughout the years, he assisted and was recognized by numerous boards and organizations. He was a past board member of the Magnolia Ridge Country Club, Texas 4H Youth Development Foundation, Liberty Dayton Hospital, Liberty County Central Appraisal District and the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency.

Always understanding the importance of education and our nation's youth, JC was a life time supporter of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Trinity Valley Exposition and 4H Alumni Association. He served and supported the Liberty-Dayton Chamber of Commerce, Liberty Rotary Club, 100 Club, Liberty Elks Club, Liberty County Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Thoroughbred Association and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association. He started the Burnham Classic Golf Tournament which donated over $450,000 for South Liberty State Center/Tri-County Services. The list of this model citizen's accomplishments will have lasting effects on the city of Liberty and surrounding areas. It is my hope that he will be remembered as a true visionary and strong community supporter, and that others will follow his lead.

My thoughts are with the love of JC's life, Kathleen—his wife of 21 years. They shared the same passion for their community, their farm and their love of slow race horses. Last spring, I visited JC at St. Luke's in Houston and I observed Kathleen in the caretaker role as she poured out her love, spirit and fight for JC. The passing of JC has left a son and daughter in mourning of their father—Bruce Burnham and Cyrese Jezek. His memory will live on, in the many lives he touched along the way.

On the evening of November 4, 2012, hundreds of Liberty, Texas residents waited in line at the First United Methodist Church of Liberty to pay their respects to the family of this honorable man. JC was a loyal friend to me, and although I am saddened by his loss, I feel very fortunate for the time and friendship we shared. He will be remembered by many as a devoted community leader, a genuine friend and a great Texan.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF LIZ IRWIN OF MENDOCINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Liz Irwin, one of the Mendocino Coast's most outstanding community leaders, who passed away October 23, 2012, leaving an enduring legacy in the fields of rural health care and the needs of senior citizens.

Born on September 5, 1919 in Fort Pierre, South Dakota, Liz grew up in South Dakota, went to Minnesota State College and then to Colorado State College of Education, where she met her husband of 70 years, Horace ''Ace'' Irwin. The couple moved to southern California where Ms. Irwin received a master's degree in speech at California State University Northridge.

Liz was a teacher in Northridge and Long Beach before she and Ace retired to the Mendocino Coast in 1971. She immediately became an inspirational and dynamic force for change and social justice in this rural coastal community, always with a twinkle in her eyes. Over the years she tackled tough issues, serving as the director of the Bea Erikson Senior Center for seven years to ensure seniors received the services they needed. She was also on the Mendocino Coast District Hospital Board of Directors. One of her crowing achievements was the initiation of Health Watch, a group that persuaded the County Board of Supervisors to maintain health care on the coast by creating the Mendocino Coast Clinics, where she was the first Chair of the Board of Directors, continuing until 2004.

Liz motivated others with her sense of humor and radical, feminist spirit as she participated in the Gray Panthers, the ''Do-Gooders'' annual holiday luncheon benefitting the local food banks and Old Broads for Peace. Many on the coast remember Liz for the many years she authored her inspirational ''Coasting'' column in the Mendocino Beacon and her childhood reminiscences in her book, ''Home of the Heart.'' Liz loved her small town upbringing in South Dakota and told her family she never felt entirely at home again until she moved to the Mendocino Coast.

The Mendocino community showed its love and respect for Liz by honoring her as Grand Marshal in both the Mendocino Fourth of July and the Fort Bragg Paul Bunyan Days Parades.

She is survived by Ace, whom she referred to as the ''joint tenant'' in her newspaper columns, by her children, Bill Irwin, an actor based in New York, his wife Martha Roth, Patrick Irwin in Montreal and Nan Irwin, also living in New York, as well as two grandsons.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing and paying tribute to a friend, outstanding community member and role model, Liz Irwin.

HONORING EPSILON KAPPA KAPPA CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED FOR CONTINUED SERVICE TO THEIR COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Chartered in 1994, the Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter has been committed to providing public service to Madison County, Mississippi and surrounding areas.

Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter has executed a number of ongoing service projects, including community picnics, providing school supplies to area schools, and working with Habitat for Humanity to build homes for families in need. In addition, the Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter has orchestrated an annual scholarship boat ride to benefit surrounding residents. Finally, this chapter has been a ray of hope for many low income families during the holiday season by providing aid to the residents.

Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter has been named the ''Chapter of the Year'' for two consecutive years by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, State of Mississippi Organization, for superior service to the fraternity and their communities.

In 2011, Omega Psi Phi fraternity celebrated 100 years of service at the local, national, and international levels. Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter are men of character and great faith. They envisioned a brotherhood founded upon Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated for their continued dedication towards serving their community.

HONORING CHRISTY HAYEK

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Christy Hayek, a senior at American University, joined the D.C. office as an intern in April of this year. Christy proved to be a quick learner and has done an exemplary job in assisting my Washington office fulfill its daily responsibilities. Articulate, intelligent and friendly, Christy is often the first point of contact constituents have with my office when they visit or call in need of assistance, and she handles each request with poise. I am confident that when Christy graduates she will succeed in whatever path she decides to pursue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Christy Hayek for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING VETERANS AND THE ARMED FORCES

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLAVNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Veterans Day, I rise to honor all Veterans and the men and women of The Armed Forces and their families with a poetic tribute "Thank You" penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

THANK YOU

Thank . . .
Thank you . . .
Thank you,
for all of your hearts so deep!
So deep!
Thank you,
for all of your promises you did so keep!
So keep!
And all of you,
who so bled for you and me!
You and me!
And to all those Mothers who now so weep!
So weep!
And all of those Fathers,
whose pain now runs so very deep!
So deep!
And all of those families,
who can now not together ever be!
Ever be!
And all those children,
whose mommies and daddies will never again so see!
So see!
Thank you!
And for all of you heroes,
for whom the battle does now so rage!
Does rage!
Who have so seen your Brothers and Sisters In Arms so die,
with tears in eyes as all in your arms they now so lay!
So lay!
And watch them so lose,
their fine strong arms and legs!
Arms and legs!
Teaching us all how heroes are made!
Are made!
Thank you!
Thank you for all you gave!
You gave!
And all of you who must now so rebuild,
where none lies left as all of the angels you so instill!
Instill!
And all the ones who now must so awake,
all in sweats in the middle of the night as do they!
Do they!
Who far across the shores,
must live without loved ones in arms on each new day!
New day!
Thank You one and all in every way,
words can not all you repay!
Repay!
And all of those,
who must now so live with the scars of war!
Of war!
Who come home with PTSD,
and so much more!
So much more!
Carrying those dreaded dark scars of war!
Of war!
Who for all of us have so fought for!
Fought for!
But For The Greater Good,
our most blessed freedoms do so insure!
So insure!
Thank you,
one and all the more!
For there are not greater Americans,
than you and your loved ones all the more!
The more!
Is that not what heaven is for?
Is for!
So on this Veteran's day,
fall to your knees and pray!
And pray!
And thank all of those members and families,
of The Armed Forces who such magnificence do so display!
Display!
And remember why you are free this day!
This day!
And why your children in such a great country can so awake!
Awake!.
For all they ask,
is for you to stand behind them each day!
In your hearts,
make each day . . . Veterans Day!
And remember the cost of freedom,
with each step you take!
You take!
Because the cost of Freedom,
is not Free!
Not Free!
Thank You!

SHIPLEY DONUTS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every morning, at the crack of dawn, there's a nostalgic aroma of warm donuts, fresh out of the oven, coming from a local Shipley Donuts. The smell takes me back through memories from when I was a boy, walking around the corner to a Shipley's in Houston, Texas, reaching into my pockets for some spare change to buy a donut. It was such a treat. I can still remember when there were only a few Shipley's in town. Only a few on each side of the city. And today, the evolution of this once small donut shop continues to amaze me.

The donut chain, now with more than 200 stores across the southern region of the United States, originated in Houston. In 1936, near the end of the Great Depression, Lawrence Shipley, Sr. stirred up some special ingredients and came up with his very own recipe for donuts. He cut them by hand and served them warm every day. There was no other way for him to serve the donuts but hot and fresh. It was his secret to loyal customers that would later grow his business.

Mr. Shipley became Houston's go-to man for donuts. People couldn't get enough; his donuts were such a hot commodity around the city that they began to sell in the retail markets in the 1940s. Through Mr. Shipley's strong vision of becoming a place for families to gather and enjoy a warm donut over a good conversation, that is what Shipley Donuts became.

When customers walked into the store, their eyes instantly traveled to the trays of fresh glazed, chocolate, strawberry, and golden glazed twist donuts behind the glass counters. The sweet smell of the round pieces of bread filled the air in the mornings and brought people in the shop. It was a well-known smell that people couldn't resist. When Mr. Shipley, Sr. passed away, his special recipe lived on through his son, Lawrence Shipley, Jr. He grew his family's business from just one store to several in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas, with 86 in the Houston area alone.

Together with his son, Lawrence W. Shipley, III, Shipley Jr. perfected the donut and branched out to making kolaches, now one of their signature products. Shipley, III, is currently president of the Shipley Donuts company and strives to maintain the same gourmet donut products his grandfather worked hard to perfect for many years. And it wasn't something that happened overnight.

Shipley Donut means more than just a warm, glazed donut that slowly and sweetly dissolves in my mouth after every bite. This fine company represents community, a strong business, and quality service. Of course, the irresistible, sweet smell of the donuts baking inside is what brings people inside, but customers are also always greeted with a warm smile behind the counter of donuts upon entering. And although it is a true Texas tradition, it is a model for businesses in the Houston area and states across the southern line of the country.

Shipley products are not only a Texas tradition but are also a personal tradition for me.

When I drive down North Park Drive and pass a local store, the smell tempts me every time. I reflect on my childhood and can't help the urge to pull into what is now a Shipley Donuts drive thru. A trip to the donut shop is a personal tradition that I've passed onto my family, too. When my grandchildren tug away at my sleeve, begging me for a sweet treat, I tell them I know exactly the place to go.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING BILLY WOODY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my District office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the excellent assistance so many have come to expect from our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown to me during my years of service in Congress.

Billy Woody has served in numerous roles as a volunteer in our District office. As retired military himself, Billy took special interest in making sure our veterans received exceptional representation as they sought needed benefits through the Veterans Administration. I could always count on a warm smile and kind words of affirmation each time I interacted with Billy. I know our local veterans share my sense of gratitude and recognize Billy's dedication for always putting them first and for making their mission his own.

Billy should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Billy and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Billy Woody for his hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EAST BAY BICYCLE COALITION'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my East Bay colleagues, Representatives GEORGE MILLER, JOHN GARAMENDI, JERRY MCNERNEY, and PETE STARK on the occasion of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition's 40th anniversary celebration. In its 40 years of bicycle advocacy, the East Bay Bicycle Coalition has garnered an impressive list of victories and a vast network of supporters working toward the shared goal of promoting cycling as a sustainable, healthy, and safe form of transport in the San Francisco Bay Area.

On March 20, 1972, a group of cyclists created the East Bay Bicycle Coalition as a nonprofit bicycle advocacy group with the simple mission of promoting bicycling for people of all ages and abilities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties of California. One of the organization's first battles was for bicycle access on the then-new San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system. By 1975, the coalition had succeeded in that goal and paved the way for BART's continued reputation as one of the most bike-friendly transit agencies in the country.

During the past 40 years, the East Bay Bicycle Coalition has also worked to expand and establish bikeways on Bay Area bridges, stripe hundreds of miles of bike lanes in East Bay cities, and complete 244 miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail. The organization's members have worked tirelessly for access to urban bicycle parking, inclusion of bicycle pathways in local and regional transit plans, and to establish an annual ''Bike-to-Work Day'' throughout the East Bay.

With growing awareness that an ever-increasing number of individual automobile commuters is neither sustainable nor responsible, there has been a national movement towards alternative forms of transportation. Thanks in great part to the work of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, our East Bay Congressional districts are leading the way in this trend, with four cities certified ''bike-friendly'' by the League of American Bicyclists—Oakland, Emeryville, Brentwood and Alameda. Berkeley, in my district, ranks fourth in the nation amongst cities with the highest number of people bicycling.

We are pleased to see the role that federal investment has played in promoting and sustaining this transportation shift, beginning in 1991 with the walking and biking provisions of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act. My colleagues and I look forward to continuing to work with the East Bay Bicycle Coalition and their allies around the country as we prepare in the coming years to develop a long-term Federal Transportation Bill that works for everyone, including those who find the bicycle to be a clean, healthy, and enjoyable form of transportation.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of California's 9th, 7th, 10th, 11th, and 13th districts, we pay tribute to the East Bay Bicycle Coalition in recognition of their 40th anniversary. We ask our colleagues to join with us in congratulating the East Bay Bicycle Coalition for its continued leadership and commitment to making the East Bay a wonderful place to ride, and we wish them success in the coming years.

HONORING JULIE B. FAGAN (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, CONNECTICUT) ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Julie Fagan, a dedicated public servant, who will be retiring at the end of this month.

After 23 years of service with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Julie B. Fagan is set to retire effective November 30th. Julie is currently the Field Office Director of the Hartford Field Office for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She was previously the Director of the HUD Salt Lake City Field Office and the national director overseeing the Public and Assisted Housing Drug Elimination Program in Washington, DC. She also served on the senior management team for Governor Roy Romer (D) of Colorado.

Julie started her career at HUD following her passion to fight drug use in public and assisted housing. During her career she has played a critical role in preserving and redeveloping critical Federal public housing properties all over Connecticut, particularly in Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport. Julie has also made it a top priority in her time as director of the Connecticut HUD office to collaborate with her peer Federal, State and local agencies. She has greatly improved the housing landscape for the people of Connecticut by initiating many vital working relationships with government, non-profit and private organizations that play a role in housing the people of Connecticut. In addition, Julie has been a leader in Connecticut by helping residents navigate the challenges presented by the foreclosure crisis. Her leadership and ability to train her staff to accommodate the many changes in the housing market allowed for constituents to have their needs addressed in as timely and professional a manner as possible. Julie is looking forward to spending more time with her husband Jack, her five wonderful children and nine grandchildren.

I applaud her hard work, time and dedication in serving the State of Connecticut and the country and thank her for her years of public service that has helped so many families. I know that our office will miss working with Julie and we wish her and her family all the best.

HONORING BETH TIELKE

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Beth Tielke and the many volunteers working with her to improve the lives of Nebraskans and our servicemen and women. Beth is a well known small businesswoman from O'Neill, Nebraska. She has owned a store, several restaurants, and a sandwich business. Her children now run these businesses, but Beth continues to work

and devotes a significant amount of her time running Nebraska Troop Support and Share Our Dream.

Through Nebraska Troop Support, Beth assembles care packages for our soldiers, veterans and their families. She solicits small donations and gifts which are sent in about 40 care packages each month to let all of our servicemembers know how much their sacrifice is appreciated.

Share Our Dream, also run by Beth, has benefitted more than 1600 Nebraskans with small gifts such as cookies, flowers, and short notes to lift the spirit of someone in need. While most of the costs have been paid by Beth, the organization has made it possible for local businesses and citizens to donate small items to help their neighbors. These small gestures not only bring smiles, but also renew the spirit of giving in our State.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in honoring Beth Tielke and her selfless work to bring joy to our troops, veterans, military families and all Nebraskans.

TRIBUTE TO DON ARTHUR McGRIFF

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of a beloved and respected Alabaman who passed away on October 2, 2012, at the age of 70. Don McGriff was a devoted public servant and a tireless advocate for safer communities at the state and local level.

Don McGriff was born in Mobile on April 22, 1942. He was a graduate of Murphy High School, the University of South Alabama, and the Jones School of Law at Faulkner University. Don also served his country honorably in the United States Marine Corps.

Active in state and local politics, Don was the Republican Nominee for Alabama Lieutenant Governor against Democrat Jim Folsom, Jr. in 1986. He served as Chairman of the Baldwin County Republican Party and on the Baldwin County School Board.

Don's reputation for fairness also earned him bipartisan respect in Montgomery. In 2004, Governor Bob Riley appointed him to serve on the newly expanded Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles.

His long political career also included runs for State Senate and State Representative in Baldwin County and service as an assistant district attorney.

Don's public service was marked by his unwavering dedication to fighting crime as well as the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes. Don was a founding board member of We Care Prison Ministries and the Lovelady Center. He was a charter member of the Fairhope Sunset Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I offer condolence to his wife of 46 years, Jeanne Kelly; their son, Kelly; their daughter, Heather; their eight grandchildren and their entire family and many friends You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO LT. BOBBY PRICE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor a great friend, an honorable man and a tireless champion for all veterans, Lt. Bobby Price. Bobby passed away on November 2, 2012 after many years battling cancer.

Throughout his 24 years of active duty service in the U.S. Navy, Bobby demonstrated tremendous zeal for getting the job done. As an advocate for veterans he brought the same zeal towards fighting on behalf of veterans and he never let up. He never gave up. His heart was in it all the way.

Mr. Speaker, I often credit Bobby with informing me of everything I needed to know to fight on behalf of veterans. He spent many, many hours going over everything that needed to be done legislatively, educating me on what veterans have to confront as individuals and how much we owe to them. His ambitious goals really personify what it means to be a champion for veterans. I hope through my work I was able justify his confidence in me.

Bobby has received scores of awards recognizing his tremendous service throughout his life—including 2007 San Diego County Veteran of the Year. He was President of the nonprofit Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation at the time of his death, having served on the charity's board for six years.

He was active in the VFW and other veteran's organizations locally, statewide, and nationally. Many of my successes on behalf of veterans came about because of Bobby Price's suggestions. He would say: "We got to do this. We got to do that. We can't have this offset. We have to do this!" I listened to every word, most of which we tried to enact. Bobby, I will miss you and I appreciate everything you did every single day.

Bobby is survived by his wife, Julia; his sons, Paul Hoch, Russ Price, Marcus Bush and Adam Price; and daughter Adriana Bush. Another daughter, Jennifer Crane, preceded him in death. He has five grandchildren, with another due soon.

Bobby will be truly missed by all who were touched by his love for life and his passion for his fellow veterans.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral. I was so pleased to join members, friends and the community on October 7, 2012, to celebrate 100 years of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral as a congregation.

It was also a time to give thanks for the spiritual leadership, generosity, dedication, and the sacrifices made by generations of your faithful members. Your congregation has contributed much to the religious, social, cultural and civic life of this city.

Your hard work and decades of effort culminated in this beautiful Cathedral, St. Sava. It demonstrates to your community and to people of faith throughout our area the dedication by people of faith, to honor their beliefs and holy traditions. I am particularly moved by the timeline of over 40 years to establish the first place of worship until the Cathedral's final completion—from 1912 to 1958. I wondered about this significant period of time and then realized that your grandfathers, fathers, sons, brothers and husbands, all who could serve, indeed did serve our country in two World Wars. It is a sacrifice that must always be honored and remembered; a sacrifice that many American immigrants have made in our history. We are so very proud and grateful to acknowledge this commitment.

You have accomplished much my friends. You have worked in our factories, our breweries, legislatures, schools and medical facilities to advance our city, state and country. We have all found a home at Serb Hall that was established by the St. Sava community as a welcoming place for all; it has served as a meeting place for Presidents, Senators, Congressmen, Congresswomen and elected leaders from all levels of government. You have shared in and contributed to the economic and political life of our community.

October 7, 2012, was a day for St. Sava members to celebrate a work well done and to consider the challenges ahead. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to St. Sava Orthodox Cathedral's 100th Anniversary. I extend my heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation for all they have done to enhance the quality of life throughout the Fourth Congressional District. I look forward to the Serbian community's continued involvement and leadership for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL JOHNSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 604 I was unavoidably detained and therefore was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING MS. KAREN THOMAS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Karen Thomas, a member of the professional staff of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, and to congratulate her on her retirement at the end of this year. Karen has made invaluable contributions to the function of the Subcommittee, and she will be greatly missed by the Members and her colleagues.

During her nearly 40-year tenure in federal government, Karen has served in all three branches: In the Executive Branch for the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Commerce, in the Judiciary for

the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and in the Legislative Branch as a detailee for the Appropriations Committee. Throughout her federal service, Karen has developed budgets, planned expenditures, facilitated transparency and fostered a team approach to solving some of the most difficult problems faced by agencies.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee's professional staff, Karen is a source of reliable information and trustworthy counsel. She approaches her job seriously, and she takes to heart the consequences of the decisions made in Congress for the public servants at dozens of federal agencies as well as the Americans who depend upon their good work.

Most of all, Karen's can-do attitude, her bright smile and warm welcomes, and her willingness to go the extra mile to get the answers not just right—but exactly right—have been instrumental to the proper functioning of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations during my two years as Chair. She will be greatly missed, and her presence and many noteworthy contributions to the work product of the Subcommittee will not soon be forgotten.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her excellent work and in wishing her well in a satisfying, hard-earned retirement, one in which there are no budget cycles, appropriations deadlines, constantly-ringing phones or all-night weekend workdays. Thank you, Karen, and God bless.

HONORING ANDREW WHALEN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Andrew Whalen helped run my very first campaign and played an instrumental role in my election to Congress. Following the campaign, Andrew served as a member of my D.C. staff as Communications Director. With Andrew's talent for grasping the breadth and complexities of the day's leading issues, together we were able to sift through some of the most intricate legislation of the decade. Then, after successfully running my first re-election campaign, Andrew returned to the office to serve as my Senior Advisor for Policy and Communications. Andrew was an exceptional member of my staff in every position that he held, and his political acumen and masterful communication skills continued to be invaluable assets.

Andrew should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Andrew and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Andrew Whalen for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 60, Adjournment Resolution.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6829–S6873

Measures Introduced: Five bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3631–3635, S. Res. 597–599, and S. Con. Res. 60. **Page S6855**

Measures Passed:

PREEMIE Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 1440, to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6868–70**

Landrieu (for Alexander) Amendment No. 2926, to strike provisions relating to the National Institutes of Health. **Pages S6869–70**

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008: Senate passed H.R. 6570, to amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to consolidate certain CBO reporting requirements. **Page S6870**

Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 490, designating the week of September 16, 2012, as "Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week", reaffirming the importance of an enhanced and coordinated research effort on mitochondrial diseases, and commending the National Institutes of Health for its efforts to improve the understanding of mitochondrial diseases, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S6870–71**

Charitable Donations in Senate Buildings: Senate agreed to S. Res. 597, to permit the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings. **Page S6871**

Congratulating the San Francisco Giants: Senate agreed to S. Res. 598, commending and congratulating the San Francisco Giants for winning the 2012 World Series. **Pages S6871–72**

Support of the State of Israel: Senate agreed to S. Res. 599, expressing vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizing and strongly supporting its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism. **Page S6872**

Adjournment Resolution: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 60, providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives. **Pages S6872–73**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3254, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Pages S6829–30**

Sportsmen's Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of S. 3525, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S6830–48**

Pending:

Reid (for Tester) Amendment No. 2875, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6830**

Reid Amendment No. 2876 (to Amendment No. 2875), to change the enactment date. **Page S6830**

Reid Amendment No. 2877 (to Amendment No. 2876), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6830**

Reid Amendment No. 2878 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2875), to change the enactment date. **Page S6830**

Reid Amendment No. 2879 (to Amendment No. 2878), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6830**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 84 yeas to 12 nays (Vote No. 203), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the bill. **Pages S6830–31**

Reid Motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 2880, to change the enactment date, fell when cloture was invoked on the bill. **Page S6830**

Reid Amendment No. 2881 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 2880), of a perfecting nature, fell when Reid Amendment No. 2880 fell. **Page S6830**

Reid Amendment No. 2882 (to Amendment No. 2881), of a perfecting nature, fell when Reid Amendment No. 2881 fell. **Page S6830**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that on Monday, November 26, 2012, it be in order for Senator Sessions, or his designee, to be recognized in order to raise a Budget Act point of order against Reid (for Tester) Amendment No. 2875 (listed above), and that it be in order for Senator Reid, or his designee, to make a motion to waive the point of order; that at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 26, 2012, Senate vote on the motion to waive, if raised; that if the motion to waive is successful, Reid Amendment No. 2876, Reid Amendment No. 2877, Reid Amendment No. 2878, and Reid Amendment No. 2879 be withdrawn, en bloc; Reid (for Tester) Amendment No. 2875 be agreed to; that no further amendments or motions be in order prior to a vote on passage of the bill; and Senate vote on passage of S. 3525, as amended, with no intervening action or debate; and if the motion to waive is not successful, the Majority Leader be recognized. **Page S6841**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time on the bill be considered expired at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, November 26, 2012, and Senate proceed under the previous order. **Page S6873**

Pro Forma Sessions–Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, November 16, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, November 20, 2012, at 12 p.m.; and Friday, November 23, 2012, at 3 p.m.; and that the Senate adjourn on Friday, November 23, 2012, until 2 p.m., on Monday, November 26, 2012, unless the Senate has received a message from the House of Representatives that it has adopted S. Con. Res. 60, which is the adjournment resolution, and if the Senate has received such a message, Senate adjourn until Monday, November 26, 2012, at 2 p.m., under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 60; and that the Majority Leader be recognized. **Page S6873**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years.

Thomas Hoenig, of Missouri, to be Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. **Pages S6868, S6873**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Robert F. Cohen, Jr., of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2018.

Timothy J. Feighery, of New York, to be Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for a term expiring September 30, 2015.

William S. Greenberg, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term of fifteen years. **Page S6873**

Messages from the House: **Page S6852**

Measures Referred: **Page S6852**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6852–55**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6855–56**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6856–59**

Additional Statements: **Pages S6850–52**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6859–61**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6861**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—203) **Pages S6830–31**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m. and adjourned, pursuant to the provisions of S. Con. Res. 60, at 6:01 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, November 16, 2012 (Unless the Senate has received a message from the House of Representatives that the House has adopted S. Con. Res. 60, Adjournment Resolution. And if the Senate has received such a message, the Senate stand adjourned until 2 p.m., on

Monday, November 26, 2012). (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6873.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., USMC for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, International Security Assistance Force, and to be Commander, U.S. Forces, Afghanistan, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine an original bill entitled, "Water Resources Development Act of 2012", after receiving testimony from Stephen Curtis, American Society of Civil Engineers, Washington, D.C.; Terrence Sullivan, The Nature Conservancy, Providence, Rhode Island; Amy W. Larson, National Waterways Conference, Inc., Arlington, Virginia; and Dusty Williams, National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA), Riverside, California.

PHARMACY COMPOUNDING AND MENINGITIS OUTBREAK

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine pharmacy compounding, focusing on implications of the 2012 meningitis outbreak, after receiving testimony from Beth Bell, Director, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Margaret A. Hamburg, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Lauren Smith, Massachusetts Department of Public Health Interim Commissioner, Boston; Marion Kainer, Tennessee Department of Health Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Program Director, Nashville; David Miller, International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists, Missouri City, Texas; and Kasey Thompson, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Bethesda, Maryland.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

PREVENTING ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine preventing elder financial abuse, including strengthening efforts to combat elder financial exploitation, after receiving testimony from Kay E. Brown, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Hubert H. Humphrey III, Assistant Director, Office for Older Americans, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Frank W. Abagnale, Frank W. Abagnale and Associates, and Paul Smocer, BITS, on behalf of the Financial Services Roundtable, both of Washington, D.C.; and Paul R. Greenwood, San Diego District Attorney's Office Elder Abuse Prosecution Unit, San Diego, California.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 3 public bills, H.R. 6590–6592; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 809–812 were introduced. **Pages H6396–97**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6397**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1206, to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to preserve consumer and employer access to licensed independent insurance producers (H. Rept. 112–694) and S. 285, for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–695). **Page H6396**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Farenthold to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6371**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H6377**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Dr. Alan Keiran, Office of the United States Senate. **Page H6377**

Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal Act of 2012—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 808, the rule that is providing for

consideration of H.R. 6156, to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of the Russian Federation and Moldova and to require reports on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, by a recorded vote of 253 ayes to 150 noes, Roll No. 606, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 243 yeas to 164 nays, Roll No. 605. **Pages H6380–88, H6389–90**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:26 p.m. and reconvened at 5:05 p.m. **Page H6387**

Oath of Office—Tenth Congressional District of New Jersey: Representative-elect Donald M. Payne, Jr. presented himself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier, the Clerk of the House transmitted a scanned copy of a letter from the Honorable Kimberly M. Guadagno, Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of State, State of New Jersey, indicating that, according to the unofficial returns of the Special Election held November 6, 2012, the Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr. was elected Representative to Congress for the Tenth Congressional District, State of New Jersey. **Pages H6388–89, H6395**

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from New Jersey, the whole number of the House is 434. **Page H6389**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the victims of Hurricane Sandy. **Page H6390**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated yesterday, November 14th:

Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act: Concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2453, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Mark Twain, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 370 yeas to 19 nays, Roll No. 607. **Pages H6390–91**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H6371.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6388, H6389–90, H6391. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Committee Meetings

BENGHAZI AND BEYOND

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Benghazi and Beyond: What Went Wrong on September 11, 2012 and How to Prevent it from Happening at other Frontline Posts". Testimony was heard from Michael Courts, Acting Director, International Affairs and Trade, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

WMD TERRORISM: ASSESSING THE CONTINUED HOMELAND THREAT

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence held a hearing entitled "WMD Terrorism: Assessing the Continued Homeland Threat". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TSA'S RECENT SCANNER SHUFFLE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation Security held a hearing entitled "TSA's Recent Scanner Shuffle: Real Strategy or Wasteful Smokescreen?". Testimony was heard from Jonathan Cantor, Acting Chief Privacy, Department of Homeland Security; and John Sanders, Assistant Administrator, Office of Security Capabilities, Transportation Security Administration.

U.S. ANTARCTIC PROGRAM: ACHIEVING FISCAL AND LOGISTICAL EFFICIENCY WHILE SUPPORTING SOUND SCIENCE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The U.S. Antarctic Program: Achieving Fiscal and Logistical Efficiency While Supporting Sound Science". Testimony was heard from Norman R. Augustine, Chair, U.S. Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel; Subra Suresh, Director, National Science Foundation; Duncan J. McNabb, Member, U.S. Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel; and Warren M. Zapol, Chair, Committee on Future Science Opportunities in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, National Research Council.

REVIEW OF VETERANS EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES AND INITIATIVES OF THE 112TH CONGRESS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled "Review of Veterans Employment Challenges and Initiatives of the 112th Congress". Testimony was heard from John K. Moran, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Operations & Management, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor; Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr.,

Chair, Texas Veterans Commission; and Abraham J. Turner, Chair, Veterans Affairs Committee, National Association of State Workforce Agencies, Executive Director, South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce.

ONGOING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing on ongoing intelligence activities. This was a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

House Committees

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Management, hearing entitled ''A Line in the Sand: Assessing Dangerous Threats to Our Nation's Borders'', 9 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA): A Review of the Department of Transportation Inspector General's Findings and Recommendations'', 9 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing on ongoing intelligence activities, 7:30 a.m., HVC–304. This is a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to receive a briefing on assessing Ukraine's parliamentary elections, focusing on the lack of a level playing field, 10 a.m., B318, Rayburn Building.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 9 a.m., Room to be announced.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Friday, November 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, November 16

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of H.R. 6156—Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal Act of 2012 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Alexander, Rodney, La., E1758, E1759
Becerra, Xavier, Calif., E1761
Bilirakis, Gus M., Fla., E1761
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E1764
Bonner, Jo, Ala., E1763, E1776
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E1771
DeLauro, Rosa L., Conn., E1767
Denham, Jeff, Calif., E1757, E1759, E1761, E1766
Emerson, Jo Ann, Mo., E1768, E1776
Farr, Sam, Calif., E1760
Filner, Bob, Calif., E1776
Fitzpatrick, Michael G., Pa., E1774
Graves, Sam, Mo., E1768, E1769
Griffith, H. Morgan, Va., E1760
Johnson, Bill, Ohio, E1776
Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E1772
Jordan, Jim, Ohio, E1768
Larson, John B., Conn., E1775
Lee, Barbara, Calif., E1762, E1775
Lewis, Jerry, Calif., E1768
Maloney, Carolyn B., N.Y., E1760, E1765
Moore, Gwen, Wisc., E1758, E1776
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, D.C., E1771
Owens, William L., N.Y., E1767
Pingree, Chellie, Me., E1769
Poe, Ted, Tex., E1773, E1774
Richardson, Laura, Calif., E1757, E1763
Rush, Bobby L., Ill., E1770
Shuler, Heath, N.C., E1757, E1758, E1759, E1761, E1762, E1763, E1764, E1765, E1766, E1767, E1767, E1769, E1769, E1770, E1771, E1772, E1772, E1774, E1775, E1777
Smith, Adrian, Nebr., E1775
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E1757, E1758, E1761, E1764, E1766, E1767, E1768, E1770, E1772, E1773
Thompson, Mike, Calif., E1773
Towns, Edolphus, N.Y., E1762, E1763, E1765, E1766, E1767, E1771

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