

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LATE MAYOR JAMES D. GRIFFIN ON THE OCCASION OF THE RUN JIMMY RUN 5K RACE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life and legacy of one of Buffalo's great leaders, our late Mayor James D. Griffin who served as the city's top civic leader from 1978 to 1993, on the occasion of the first race held in his honor, the Run Jimmy Run 5k.

Inspired by Mayor Griffin's tenacious spirit, dedication to the City of Buffalo, and commitment to good works and good causes, the Run Jimmy Run 5k kicks off at 10 am on July 21, 2013. The proceeds from the day's events will benefit the Alzheimer's Association of Western New York. Additionally, items will be donated to the City Mission and baseball tickets will be donated to the Special Olympics, organizations that were near and dear to Mayor Griffin's heart.

Beginning at One James D. Griffin Plaza, in front of the baseball stadium for which Mayor Griffin was the driving force behind building, the race course passes through the heart of downtown and along the waterfront. After the race's completion at home plate, there will be a post-race party and Bison's baseball game.

The Run Jimmy Run charity event was initiated by Mayor Griffin's children to honor the memory of their father and raise funds for an organization that they came to rely on in a very personal way. Mayor Griffin succumbed to a rare neurodegenerative disorder and many of the nurses who cared for him were trained by the Alzheimer's Association.

Alzheimer's is a tough disease that touches many of our lives. It's critically important that we continue to fight for increased funding for Alzheimer's research and I pledge to continue that fight in Washington. I wish to sincerely thank all those involved with the Run Jimmy Run 5k, especially Mayor Griffin's three children Maureen, Megan and Thomas, for their efforts in the fight against Alzheimer's.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to remember the incredible legacy of our late Mayor James D. Griffin and the work he has inspired for the future of Buffalo. I can think of no better tribute to the man who brought professional baseball back to Buffalo then a run through downtown Buffalo, followed by a ballgame at "The Field that Jimmy Built." I wish to extend all participants and organizers a successful run and fun-filled day with special thanks to Mayor Griffin's children, extended family and friends for honoring the life and legacy of the late, great Mayor James D. Griffin.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT CLIFFORD M. WOOLDRIDGE AS THE 2013 MARINE CORPS TIMES MARINE OF THE YEAR

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Clifford M. Wooldridge, an "Everyday Hero" as the 2013 Marine of the Year. SSgt. Wooldridge was previously awarded the Navy Cross for heroism in Afghanistan. In 2012 he was awarded the USO Marine of the Year. SSgt. Wooldridge has continued to serve his country both professionally as a Marine and through volunteering. He was selected as the Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year for his volunteerism and bravery in combat.

The Marine Corps Times honors servicemembers, like SSgt. Wooldridge, who demonstrate pride, dedication, and courage beyond expectations. He is an instructor with the Marine Corps Security Force Regiment and teaches and mentors junior Marines. He teaches them technical skills they will need in close quarter combat and shares personal stories so they can learn from previous mistakes.

Professional duties aside, it is SSgt. Wooldridge's service to his community that has earned him this latest honor. He has spent countless hours assisting disabled and recovering veterans with the Wounded Warrior Project and served as an athlete sponsor and was the host Marine for the Special Olympics in Virginia Beach. He helped a terminally ill young man receive recognition as an honorary Marine. While all his volunteer activities are important to him, SSgt. Wooldridge has a special passion for the Honored American Veterans Afield, which helps combat veterans transition through hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

SSgt. Wooldridge's outdoor skills were honed in his hometown of Port Angeles, in Washington State, the place where I, too, was born and raised. There he experienced the beautiful and plentiful natural resources found only on the Olympic Peninsula. Graduating from Port Angeles High School in 2006, SSgt. Wooldridge completed training as a diesel mechanic and left his home in the Pacific Northwest for a life as a Marine in service to others.

Mr. Speaker, I can say with confidence that our community is a better place thanks to the ongoing, selfless commitment of people like SSgt. Wooldridge. The Port Angeles community applauds SSgt. Wooldridge for his service to country and we honor him today as the 2013 Marine of the Year. On behalf of our thankful nation, thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SLOVAK DAY CELEBRATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Slovak Day Celebration. In honor of this momentous occasion, a commemorative event will take place on Sunday, July 21, 2013 at the Salvatorian Shrine in Merrillville, Indiana.

The first Slovak Day Celebration took place at the Seven Dolores Shrine in Valparaiso, Indiana in 1973, when Father Joseph Viater, along with Betty and Carl Yurechko, decided that Slovak heritage and culture should be honored in Northwest Indiana with a day of celebration.

Slovak Day has been a great success over the years, and the day is celebrated each year with a Slovak Catholic Mass, followed by traditional Slovak food and performances by Slovak dancers. Throughout the years, many bishops have come to celebrate this significant event, including Bishop Sokol from Slovakia, Bishop Adamec of Pennsylvania, and Bishops Andrew G. Grutka and Dale J. Melczek of the Diocese of Gary, Indiana. Additionally, over the past 40 years, many dedicated volunteers from Slovak churches throughout the region have given their time and efforts to this day.

I would like to take this time to recognize the numerous hardworking committee members for their outstanding dedication to this event. They are Betty Yurechko, Lillian and John Zaborske, Agnes Chervenak, Melissa and Jason Yurechko, Ann Fedorchak, Leona Cupka, Elaine Ruzbasan, Betty Ortiz, Andy Sacek, Irene Horn Riggio, and Reverend John Kalicky.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Slovak Day Celebration. The Slovak community has played an important role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. For their commitment to preserving Slovak heritage, the committee members, church leaders, and volunteers are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING OFFICER DANIEL "JJ" LOMAX

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Daniel Lomax, a firefighter and police officer who laid down his life in the service and protection of his community. Officer Lomax's End of Watch was Saturday, June 22, 2013.

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Daniel Lomax, known as “JJ” to his friends, always put the safety of others first. He demonstrated that when he stopped to help the victim of a car accident while he was off duty, sacrificing his own safety for the good of others.

He devoted his life to serving others as a member of the Mayfield, Forest City, and Great Bend Police Departments. He also served as the Deputy Fire Chief in the Factoryville Fire Department and volunteered for the Meredith Hose Company in Childs, Pennsylvania.

Those who knew him remember how he looked out for his neighbors and friends, always putting others first. His fellow officers knew him as a dependable and likable colleague—If the world had more people like Daniel, it would be a safer place for everyone.

Although his time with us was tragically cut short, our memories of Daniel “JJ” Lomax will live on in the hearts of everyone who knew him. His dedication to his family, friends, fellow policemen and firemen, and to the people he served, is what made Daniel a true hero.

CELEBRATING GLENDA STOCK
UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Glenda Stock on her retirement after years of hard work and dedication to Central Louisiana.

Glenda began her career with Delta Airlines where her final position was Regional Manager in Reservation Sales. In this capacity, she was responsible for over 6,000 employees located in six different cities. Though she had put in a lot of hours to promote herself during her 18 year career with Delta, Glenda wanted a simpler life. For her, this meant owning and operating the five Alexandria, La. McDonald’s restaurants.

Her amazing work ethic did not disappoint. Glenda’s leadership skills carried over into her business, where she worked side by side with her employees doing whatever job needed her attention, even if it included washing dishes. While she is kind and fair, Glenda’s standards are high, and she expected no less than excellence from her employees.

Glenda is not just a business-minded woman, however. She has used her success and devotion to give back to her community. She has held numerous leadership roles, including Cabrini Foundation Board, Central Louisiana Community Foundation President, Chairperson of the CENLA American Red Cross, Vice President of the Economic Development Committee for the Chamber of Commerce, and board member of First Federal Bank. Her commitment to improving educational opportunities is also noteworthy. Glenda served on the LSUA Foundation Board while adopting multiple schools as their Partner in Education. She has received several awards for her selfless efforts, including a Louisiana Heroine Award, Service Above Self Award, Decades of Women Award, and Small Business Award.

For Glenda, her most rewarding accomplishment is what she was able to achieve with the

help of her late husband David. Together, they successfully restored a historical building in Alexandria to house the Red Cross Operations.

As I mentioned previously, Glenda opted for an early retirement from Delta Airlines so that she could live a simpler life. It is my guess that, though Glenda is retiring from her position as owner and operator of her restaurants, she is not slowing down. Glenda Stock is a woman to be admired and respected by her peers for her motivated and philanthropic heart. With her retirement she leaves behind a remarkable legacy. Glenda has a message for all of her employees in new hire orientation, “Handle every customer the same as you would if I were standing there watching you!” Again, congratulations to Glenda Stock for a well deserved retirement.

CITIZENS FIRE AND RESCUE NO. 2

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Citizens Fire and Rescue No. 2 of the Borough of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania which will celebrate 110 years of service to the community this year.

Organized on June 12, 1903, the company was formed in response to two major fires that took place in Mechanicsburg earlier that year. Residents of the western part of the borough who were frustrated by waiting for assistance from fire companies from the neighboring city of Harrisburg decided to form the organization so fires could be dealt with quickly, protecting residents and property.

Land for the site of the firehouse was purchased from Dr. W. H. Moyer in 1903, and the building was completed in 1904. To this day, it is still being used to house the fire company. In 1975, the organization merged with Rescue Hook and Ladder Company, also of Mechanicsburg, to form Citizens Fire and Rescue No. 2, the name it carries to this day. The members of this company continue to risk their own lives to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of Cumberland County.

Mr. Speaker, for 110 years Citizens Fire and Rescue Company No. 2 has proudly protected the residents of the borough of Mechanicsburg and the surrounding areas from fire and other disasters. Therefore, I commend all those personnel who have faithfully served at this fire house.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN E.
MITTEREDER ON THE OCCASION
OF HER RETIREMENT FROM
FAIRFAX COUNTY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend Susan E. Mittereder on the occasion of her retirement after a distinguished career in public service to the residents of Fairfax County, the largest local jurisdiction in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the National Capital Region. For the past 25

years, Sue has been the primary legislative liaison for Fairfax County, serving as the eyes, ears, voice, and chief advocate for local government in the halls of the Virginia General Assembly and Congress.

Her success in educating state and federal legislators about the interests of local government stems from her background as a classroom teacher. Having once attended classes in a one-room schoolhouse, Sue initially pursued a career in education. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Education degrees from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She taught first grade and gifted elementary classes for the Newark and New Castle school districts in Delaware before pursuing advanced and doctorate degrees in education administration at Virginia Tech. It was during that experience that she developed an affinity for public policy, and after graduation she took a position in the government relations office for Fairfax County Public Schools.

Four years later, she became the chief legislative liaison for Fairfax County. During the General Assembly’s annual winter sessions, Sue became a familiar face in the halls of the state capitol, setting up a temporary outpost from which she and her colleagues could keep close tabs on legislative proposals affecting Fairfax County. Her attention to detail, dedicated work ethic, and mastery of the legislative process made her a resource for colleagues representing other local governments and also for the legislators themselves. The legislative battles produced more than a few chocolate-fueled late nights for Sue and her team as they analyzed the impacts of changes to state funding for local services or to local government authority over matters such as land use planning, zoning enforcement, taxes, transportation, human services, education, and public safety.

Whether it was a state delegate, senator, cabinet secretary, or governor, Sue was never afraid to assert the County’s position. In fact, many a legislator has been known to wilt in the face of Sue’s tenacity. It is that doggedness that helped her maintain the trust and confidence of six county executives and five chairs of the Board of Supervisors during her tenure. She also managed to maintain her roots in education, helping to mentor numerous young staff members throughout the County government and the legislature, including those who will now succeed her.

I worked closely with Sue during my 5 years as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and my 14 years as Chairman of the Board’s Legislative Committee. During the General Assembly session, Sue and her colleagues would rush back to the County for our regular late Friday afternoon meetings so that we could pore over the hundreds, if not thousands, of legislative proposals introduced each year with the rest of the Board, looking for those efforts that aligned with our priorities and those that were an affront to them, which, unfortunately, was more often the case. Because of that dynamic, Sue’s institutional presence was invaluable. She was not only defending Fairfax County, but also safeguarding the interests of local governments throughout the Commonwealth. And passionately. It truly is one of the most unsung but critical functions of local government on behalf of our citizens.

In addition to her legislative accomplishments, Sue has a wonderful sense of humor,

which as we know is invaluable for enduring what can be a long legislative process, and she often served as the ringleader for the merry band of County staff that joined her for the annual sessions in Richmond. The revolving door included staff from the legislative office, the Office of the County Attorney, and the departments of transportation, tax administration, zoning enforcement, housing, public safety, public works, stormwater management, environmental quality, and many more.

Sue's other professional accomplishments include being a graduate of Leadership Fairfax, serving as a board member of the Liberal Arts and Human Resources Development Committee at Virginia Tech, and serving as a member of the National Association of County Intergovernmental Relations Officials. In 1996, she was recognized by Virginia Tech as an Outstanding Woman Graduate for her contributions to her community and her profession. She also serves on the education committee of her local homeowners association in Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, Sue Mittereder's commitment to our community and the mission of local government are unparalleled, and she leaves behind a legacy that will benefit our community for generations to come. Her career in public service, beginning with her service in the classroom, is truly commendable and deserving of our sincere appreciation. When I was Chairman of the County Board, we often joked when retirement announcements like this came before the Board that we should not allow such talented and dedicated staff to leave public service, and I certainly wish that was the case here. I wish Sue the best of luck in her retirement, and I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in expressing our appreciation for her commitment to serving the residents of Fairfax County.

RECOGNIZING THE CAMPBELL FAMILY AS THE 2013 SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Keith Campbell family as the 2013 Santa Rosa County, Florida, Outstanding Farm Family.

The Campbell family's extensive history in farming began in Scotland before they immigrated to South Carolina and then eventually to Chumuckla, located in Northwest Florida, in the early 1800s. A sixth generation farmer on his father's side and a fourth on his mother's side, Keith began farming with his grandfather, W.T. Stewart, in 1983 and has since taken over the complete operation. The once 500 acre farm has grown to more than 1,300 acres and produces a variety of crops, including cotton, peanuts, and wheat. The Campbell family also raises livestock—approximately sixty beef cattle—and maintains an apiary for honey production and crop pollination.

Always seeking better ways to improve the efficiency of his farming operation, Keith has reaped the benefits of technological advances that reduce costs while increasing total crop

yield. For instance, the adoption of herbicide-resistant crops in the 1990s allowed him to reduce soil erosion, business costs, and the amount of herbicides used. In the more recent years, precision tools such as field mapping and GPS equipment guidance have allowed for a further stimulation of the farm's operating effectiveness.

In addition to Keith's wife, Robynn, several other members of the family contribute to the overall success of the farm, including their daughters, Ashleigh, a teacher at Bennett C. Russell Elementary School and Brittney, a student at the University of West Florida; their nephew, Dale Campbell, who helps out after school; and Ashleigh's husband, Adam Bondurant, a senior at the University of West Florida. Their neighbors are also crucial to the farm's growth and development. Keith has spread his ideas on efficiency throughout the Santa Rosa County farming community, by initiating equipment sharing and custom planting programs with his fellow farmers.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the Keith Campbell family as the 2013 Santa Rosa County, Florida, Outstanding Farm Family. There is no question that the Campbell family and its farm will continue to be an important component to the success of farming in the First Congressional District of Florida for many generations to come. My wife Vicki and I wish the Campbell family all the best as they continue to serve the citizens of Northwest Florida.

IN HONOR OF SCOT MCKAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and remarkable public service of my friend, Scot McKay. Scot passed away on July 10th at the young age of 59. Scot was a visionary businessman, a respected citizen, a dear friend, husband, father, and somebody who made the world a better place to live in.

Mr. McKay was born and raised in Evanston, Illinois. He achieved remarkable success as a young businessman. He founded McKay Spoke 'n Sport and McKay Front Runner, acquired McKay Nissan which he expanded into Mazda and Suzuki, acquired Acura of Libertyville and, among others, was a partner of the Clean Plate Restaurant Group. In 2003, he moved his family to Carmel, California, where he quickly embraced the local community, buying, renovating and dramatically improving the Carmel Valley Athletic Club, developing and building his relaxation spa, revamping an iconic local radio station and most recently acquiring the Gardener Tennis Ranch, where I once lifeguarded. He turned it into a premier wedding and business retreat facility. Scot also served on the boards of directors of the American International Automotive Dealer Association and The Big Sur Land Trust.

Yet, for all of his accomplishments, he was proudest of his family. Being home each evening was a top priority and when asked about his life, he frequently spoke fondly of his children's recent accomplishments and family trips. Scot was well-known throughout his community for his friendly greetings and inter-

est in knowing how he could help any cause. He grabbed onto life fully and made the most of his time here. His curious nature led him to explore a variety of experiences. His humor and charm will be remembered and the love he has shared with his family and friends will long endure.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in remembering Scot McKay and extending condolences to his father and loved ones, especially his wife Heidi and his children Ashley, Jacob, Justin, Kyle, Paige, Matthew and Ian. I would like to express my gratitude for his selfless service to the people of Monterey County, and indeed to our whole Nation. He will be remembered for all the lives he touched. We will miss you, Scot.

BRING ARMANDO TORRES HOME

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Armando Torres, an American and former Marine who was kidnapped in Mexico. Armando served in the Marine Corps from 2005 to 2011, completing tours in Iraq and Africa. He is a native of Texas and the father of two small children.

In the Marines, we were taught to leave no person behind, and we must uphold that commitment to Armando. The United States and Mexican Governments have been working to find Armando, but it is clear that much more can be done. That is why the State Department and Justice Department must raise the visibility of this issue, and send a clear message to his captors that the United States will not tolerate the kidnapping of one of its citizens. Marines and their families from across our Nation have been rallying around Armando's cause, and it is time for all of us to join them, so we can ensure that Armando will be safely returned home to his family.

FAIRNESS FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 2668 the Fairness for American Families Act; which would seek to delay until 2015 the requirement that individuals maintain minimal essential health care coverage.

Once again, for the 38th time, Republicans are voting to repeal parts of the Affordable Care Act.

The individual responsibility requirement under the Affordable Care Act, which calls for purchasing coverage or paying a penalty, covers only those who have access to affordable coverage. If an individual does not have access to coverage with premiums that are 8 percent or less of their income, the individual is exempt.

Individuals are also exempt if their income is so low they do not have to file a federal tax return; or if they qualify for an exemption

based on hardship, religious beliefs, and certain other factors; or they spend less than three consecutive months without coverage.

Therefore, the Republicans' disingenuous concern that Americans will be punished if they are unable to afford coverage is simply not true!

The Affordable Care Act's individual responsibility provision is a critical component of the additional patient protections and reforms that go into effect in 2014. Health experts have determined that if, beginning in 2014, insurers can no longer deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions and can no longer charge them higher premiums, premiums in health insurance marketplaces would rise sharply unless all Americans with access to affordable insurance either purchase it or pay a penalty.

This is yet another attempt to obstruct and undermine the successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

The result of this bill's delay of the individual responsibility provision would be to limit access to affordable coverage for millions of Americans and thereby, weaken one of the primary premises of the Affordable Care Act.

Don't fall for this trick! I ask my colleagues to stand in with me in solidarity and vote no on this bill.

LETTER TO LEADER REID AND
LEADER PELOSI

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

DEAR LEADER REID AND LEADER PELOSI: When you and the President sought our support for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), you pledged that if we liked the health plans we have now, we could keep them. Sadly, that promise is under threat. Right now, unless you and the Obama Administration enact an equitable fix, the ACA will shatter not only our hard-earned health benefits, but destroy the foundation of the 40 hour work week that is the backbone of the American middle class.

Like millions of other Americans, our members are front-line workers in the American economy. We have been strong supporters of the notion that all Americans should have access to quality, affordable health care. We have also been strong supporters of you. In campaign after campaign we have put boots on the ground, gone door-to-door to get out the vote, run phone banks and raised money to secure this vision.

Now this vision has come back to haunt us. Since the ACA was enacted, we have been bringing our deep concerns to the Administration, seeking reasonable regulatory interpretations to the statute that would help prevent the destruction of nonprofit health plans. As you both know first-hand, our persuasive arguments have been disregarded and met with a stone wall by the White House and the pertinent agencies. This is especially stinging because other stakeholders have repeatedly received successful interpretations for their respective grievances. Most disconcerting of course is last week's huge accommodation for the employer community—extending the statutorily mandated "December 31, 2013" deadline for the employer mandate and penalties.

Time is running out: Congress wrote this law; you voted for you. We have a problem; you need to fix it. The unintended consequences of the ACA are severe. Perverse incentives are already creating nightmare scenarios:

First, the law creates an incentive for employers to keep employees' work hours below 30 hours a week. Numerous employers have begun to cut workers' hours to avoid this obligation, and many of them are doing so openly. The impact is two-fold: fewer hours means less pay while also losing our current health benefits.

Second, millions of Americans are covered by non-profit health insurance plans like the ones in which most of our members participate. These non-profit plans are governed jointly by unions and companies under the Taft-Hartley Act. Our health plans have been built over decades by working men and women. Under the ACA as interpreted by the Administration, our employees will be treated differently and not be eligible for subsidies afforded other citizens. As such, many employees will be relegated to second-class status and shut out of the help the law offers to for-profit insurance plans.

And finally, even though non-profit plans like ours won't receive the same subsidies as for-profit plans, they'll be taxed to pay for those subsidies. Taken together, these restrictions will make non-profit plans like ours unsustainable, and will undermine the health-care market of viable alternatives to the big health insurance companies.

On behalf of the millions of working men and women we represent and the families they support, we can no longer stand silent in the face of elements of the Affordable Care Act that will destroy the very health and wellbeing of our members along with millions of other hardworking Americans.

We believe that there are common-sense corrections that can be made within the existing statute that will allow our members to continue to keep their current health plans and benefits just as you and the President pledged. Unless changes are made, however, that promise is hollow.

We continue to stand behind real health care reform, but the law as it stands will hurt millions of Americans including the members of our respective unions.

We are looking to you to make sure these changes are made.

JAMES P. HOFFA,
General President,
International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

JOSEPH HANSEN,
International President, UFCW.

D. TAYLOR,
President, UNITE-
HERE.

TRIBUTE TO RAJ NARAYANAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Murrieta are exceptional. The City of Murrieta has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Raj Narayanan is one of these individuals. On July 20, 2013, Raj will be hon-

ored as the "Citizen of the Year" at the Murrieta Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Celebration.

Raj is the epitome of the values that the Murrieta Chamber of Commerce holds true, with a focus on strengthening the local economy, providing networking opportunities, promoting the community, representing business and government, and political advocacy. Currently, Raj serves as a Board Member of the Chamber, where he will soon serve on the Ambassador and Membership Committees. He is a highly motivated community builder and hardworking professional with proven organizational abilities. During his time at the Chamber, Raj has proven to be an effective leader.

Raj's involvement and vision have grown during his time serving on the Murrieta Chamber Board. Raj has always been quick to accept a challenge, especially if it means betterment for the community. He is co-chair for both the Chamber Golf Tournament and Chamber Installation Dinner. While serving as co-chair for the Chamber Golf Tournament, Raj effectively rebranded the tournament as the "Brew Masters Tournament" and successfully raised more money than in previous years. His success does not stop there. As co-chair of the Installation Dinner, Raj has tirelessly worked to rebrand the event as the "Awards Celebration" hosted at the Pechanga Resort and Casino with the hope of growing it annually. Raj has always been eager to help new Chamber members and is an active volunteer in Chamber events, including the Murrieta Chamber Reverse Drawings and the Special Olympic Games Bocce Ball Tournament.

In addition to the Murrieta Chamber of Commerce, Raj is a member of many other community organizations whose programs help fundraise for businesses and organizations in the area. These organizations include the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Valley Young Professionals. He was recently appointed to the Advisory Council of the Assistance League of Temecula Valley. He has helped events come to life through multiple planning stages, including the Boys and Girls Club Annual "Field of Dreams" Dinner, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk which raised over \$90,000, and the Reality Rally. Raj has also been a participant in the Murrieta Veteran's Day Parade, Field of Honor, Boys and Girls Club "Our Kids Rock" fundraiser, and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Walk/Run. He is also an active participant in the Temecula Noon Rotary Club where he serves as a member of the International Committee and is the Membership Co-Chair. For the Past three years, Raj has been committed to his title as "Food Chair" for the annual Rotary Taste of the World Fundraiser, which helped generate over \$40,000 in 2013.

In light of all Raj has done for Murrieta, the Murrieta Chamber of Commerce named Raj their Citizen of the Year. His tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of Murrieta and the surrounding area. He has been the heart and soul of many organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member and American. I know that many are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 363 I was unable to vote due to a recent medical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR
H.R. _____, THE LONG TERM
CARE VETERANS CHOICE ACT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing H.R. _____, the Long Term Care Veterans Choice Act, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the transfer of veterans to non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently.

Medical foster homes are private homes in which a trained caregiver provides twenty-four-hour, around-the-clock, care to a few individuals.

They are designed to provide a non-institutional long-term care alternative to those who prefer a smaller, more home-like and familial care setting than many traditional nursing homes are able to provide.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, has been helping to place veterans in medical foster homes for over a decade.

VA, as part of the placement process, inspects and approves all medical foster homes, limits care to no more than three veterans at a time, and provides veterans living in such homes with home-based primary care services.

VA also provides safeguards to ensure veterans receive safe, high-quality care by requiring medical foster home caregivers to pass a federal background check and VA screening, agree to undergo annual training, and allow VA medical foster home coordinators and members of a VA home care team to make both announced and unannounced home visits.

Today, according to VA, over four hundred approved caregivers provide medical foster home care in their homes to over five hundred veterans daily in over thirty five states.

The problem, however, is that VA does not have the authority to pay for the cost of the medical foster home.

So, the veteran who chooses to live in a medical foster home must pay out of pocket with personal funds—regardless of whether or not such veteran is eligible for VA-paid nursing home care.

This creates a situation where many service-connected veterans with limited financial resources, who would prefer to live in a medical foster home, go to a nursing home institution instead because VA will cover the cost of

the nursing home, but not the medical foster home.

And, while traditional nursing homes will always be a vital component of long-term care, medical foster homes provide a worthy alternative for many veterans.

According to the Department, many more veterans would elect to receive care in a medical foster home should VA be granted the authority to pay for such care.

As the veteran population continues to age, the need for long-term care services will continue to grow.

I am sure we all agree that one thing we owe our veterans, particularly those who are service-connected and in need of long-term care, is the luxury of choice—the choice to decide where and how to receive the care they need.

The Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act which would authorize VA to enter into a contract or agreement with a certified medical foster home to pay for the residential long-term care of service-connected veterans who are eligible for VA-paid nursing home care and would expand the long-term care choices offered to veterans beyond traditional services.

In addition to being beneficial for the health and well-being of veterans, the average cost of a medical foster home is approximately half the monthly cost of a nursing home, making this legislation a very cost effective health care option.

This is a commonsense, veteran-centric bill that will free many veterans from financial turmoil, and allow them to make their own decisions about what kind of long-term care they want to receive.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring the Long Term Care Veterans Choice Act.

H.R. 2667 AND H.R. 2668, TO AMEND
THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, as Congress considers two pieces of legislation related to the Affordable Care Act, I rise today to point out the silly exercise we're going through. On days like today, the American public gets to see exactly why Congress' approval rating is at historic lows.

Today, we're voting on two bills that would amend provisions of the Affordable Care Act. The first bill before us, H.R. 2667, would delay the so-called employer mandate provision until January 1, 2015. Given that the Administration has already said that they are delaying the employer mandate provision until that time, this bill won't actually do anything.

Mr. Speaker, the other bill we're voting on, H.R. 2668, would delay the implementation of the so-called individual mandate for one year. This bill would severely undermine the integrity of the Affordable Care Act. While I wasn't in Congress when the Affordable Care Act was passed into law, it is clear that this provision is needed to help make insurance afford-

able for all Americans and finally end the ability for insurance companies to deny coverage to those who have pre-existing conditions. By delaying the individual mandate, this bill would raise premiums on working class families and cause significant harm to our efforts to make health insurance accessible to all Americans.

I am proud of the work the State of Washington has done, through its state-based exchange and Medicaid expansion efforts, to make health insurance accessible for more than half a million uninsured Washingtonians. This will not only lead to a healthier population, but save Washington State an estimated \$280 million by the end of 2015, and add 10,000 new jobs as a result of the coming health care changes.

Before today's vote, I reached out to Washington State's Office of the Insurance Commissioner to discuss the individual insurance marketplace and the proposal to delay the individual mandate. I was assured that the marketplace is moving forward, full steam ahead. Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler said in a statement, "Delaying the mandate would be unwise. It's an issue of personal responsibility. It's unfair for people who can afford coverage to not have it, and to expect the rest of us to cover the cost of their care if they become seriously sick or injured."

The decision to bring both of these bills to the floor in this manner is not guided by some public policy concern. It is not to put forward credible solutions to legitimate problems. It is nothing more than a cynical attempt to play politics and mock the notion that we should implement the Affordable Care Act in a thoughtful, pragmatic way.

Mr. Speaker, I reject this false dichotomy. I support H.R. 2667, the Authority for Mandate Delay Act, not because I believe it solves an urgent problem, but for the same reason that I supported the Administration when they made this decision in the first place: the provisions have been determined to be too complex to implement prior to the existing deadline. I've met with several dozen employers in recent months who have asked for more time and greater certainty. That's what this bill does.

On the other hand, I oppose H.R. 2668, the Fairness for American Families Act, because the individual marketplace is moving forward and is in a fundamentally different place. In fact, this bill would severely undermine our ability to provide affordable, comprehensive health insurance to Americans.

[From the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner Updates, July 17, 2013]

"Delaying the mandate would be unwise. This is an issue of personal responsibility. It's unfair for people who can afford coverage to not have it, and to expect the rest of us to cover the cost of their care if they become seriously sick or injured."

"A critical part of the Affordable Care Act was the provision requiring that insurers take all applicants. No more screening out people because they have pre-existing medical conditions. But to make that work, you have to have as many people as possible in the insurance pool."

"Without an individual mandate to have coverage, people would likely just buy insurance when they knew they needed it. That's like letting people get homeowners insurance only when their house catches fire."

SAFE RETURN OF ARMANDO
TORRES**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in urging the State Department and the government of Mexico to do everything that they possibly can to ensure the safe return of Armando Torres.

It has been over two months since Armando was taken captive by armed gunmen while visiting his father in Mexico. A native of South Texas, Armando served 7 years in the Marine Corps including combat tours in Iraq. Though he survived a war zone, a greater threat to his safety came closer to home when he drove across the Los Indios Bridge into Mexico.

What should have been an uneventful trip became a nightmare for the Torres family when Armando was kidnapped. This is a sadly all too common occurrence in Mexico with as many as 70 kidnappings occurring every day.

The cartel violence in Mexico has had a profound impact on the entire nation with over 60,000 killed.

The unprecedented level of violence has greatly affected the United States as well. Relations with our neighbor to the south have been strained as the free flow of lawful commerce and visitors has been threatened by crime and illegal trafficking. Over 600 U.S. citizens have been murdered in Mexico. We talk about the Global War on Terror, but the cartel violence in Mexico has proven to be a far more deadly threat. We cannot and we will not sit idly by and watch our ally Mexico fight this war alone. We are committed to working together to address the problems which face our two nations.

The number of victims of this deadly war is staggering, but Armando Torres is not just a statistic. He is not just one of the victims of the cartel violence which has ravaged Mexico. He is a Marine, a son, a nephew, a cousin, a husband, and a father. And our nation must do everything in our power to bring him home.

I stand with my colleagues in the United States Congress today in support of Armando. We will not rest until he is returned safely to his family and friends.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ALEXIS
AGIN IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION
ACT OF 2013"**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my friend and colleague, SAM JOHNSON, to introduce this bipartisan legislation to protect Americans from identity theft.

I have long been concerned about the problem of identity theft, where all too often the Social Security number, SSN, which is assigned to make sure Americans get their earned Social Security benefits, is the key to committing fraud. For a number of years, Chairman JOHNSON and I have worked together on a bipartisan basis with other members of our Social Security Subcommittee to

find ways to better protect Americans from identity theft.

One of the most troubling forms of identity theft is fraud involving a deceased individual, which victimizes grieving families. Our subcommittee learned about a family that not only lost their young daughter to a terrible cancer—but then was dealt another blow when they found that their child's identity had been stolen and used to collect a fraudulent tax refund.

Our bill aims to stop this fraud in its tracks. It is named in honor of the child whose family asked our Subcommittee to make sure what happened to them did not happen to another family: the "Alexis Agin Identity Theft Protection Act of 2013." No one should have to endure both the loss of a loved one and then the financial stress of dealing with identity theft because a fraudster has appropriated the person's identity.

The Death Master File, DMF, a prime source of SSNs used in identity theft, is a database of death information reported to the Social Security Administration, SSA. However, a lawsuit forced SSA to make this database available to anyone who wants it. SSA needs this information—it is used to make sure earned benefits from the Social Security Trust Fund are only paid to the living. But SSA does not want to make it available to fraudsters, and they should not be required to do so.

Our bill would restrict access to the DMF to legitimate users and release to the general public only death data that is older than three years, at which point it is relatively useless to ID thieves bent on using it for fraud. Over time, our bill also enables the States to take back the responsibility of handling their death data and ends SSA's public release of the DMF for good. The President's budget proposes a similar approach that the Joint Committee on Taxation projects would save \$793 million over ten years by reducing the potential for fraudulent tax refunds. The National Taxpayer Advocate and the SSA Inspector General have also called for the public release of the DMF data to end.

I applaud the bipartisan approach we took to resolving this problem for the American people. I hope we can learn from the Agin family's tragic experience and move swiftly to enact this bipartisan, commonsense measure to reduce the harm of identity theft.

CHAMPION OF HISPANIC YOUTH
JOHN LOPEZ**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Lopez, a resident of my district who passed away on July 2, 2013.

John was born and raised in Santa Ana, California. He went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from University of California, Irvine and a Masters from the University of La Verne.

One of his proudest affiliations was through the work he did with the American GI Forum, where John rose to serve as the California State Treasurer for the organization.

John was also a member of the Latino Advocates for Education, where he worked on

documenting the military service of Latino veterans. He also helped Anaheim Latino youth gain scholarships through his membership and participation in the LULAC Anaheim Council.

A 26-year veteran of Northrop Grumman, John was a true patriot who carried out his duties with passion and integrity.

John and his wife, Linda, founded the Hispanic Advisory Council to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates of Orange County). Their efforts continue to impact the Hispanic youth that CASA serves.

John Lopez was a true public servant to his community. While he will be greatly missed, his contributions will benefit future generations.

HONORING THE NAPA COUNTY
FARM BUREAU**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Napa County Farm Bureau on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

The Napa County Farm Bureau was initiated in 1913 when at a meeting of the Napa Grange, H. J. Baade stated that the University of California at Berkeley would hire a scientifically trained man with at least four years of practical farming experience and place him in any county that would agree to organize a Farm Bureau. The Napa Grangers instructed the District Attorney to assist the Secretary of the Napa Chamber of Commerce to organize a Bureau of at least one-fifth of all the farmers in the county.

Today, the mission of the Napa County Farm Bureau is to ensure the proper political, social, and economic climate for the continuation of a strong, vibrant and sustainable agricultural economy. The Farm Bureau is one of the county's major voices for land stewardship, agricultural sustainability, and open space preservation and conservation. Over the last four decades, the Napa County Farm Bureau has led the resistance to the trend toward paving over farmland across the state and nation, and worked with County government leaders to designate agriculture as its most precious resource—the highest and best use of the land.

Countless members of the community have given much of their time and talent to help improve the agricultural conditions of Napa County. The organization is guided by a Board of Directors and supported by a multitude of dedicated volunteers. The Napa County Farm Bureau will honor 52 Centennial Napa County farm families who have been farming in the county for 100 or more years on August 3rd.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its 100 year history, the Napa County Farm Bureau has worked to protect family farms and ranches, maintain and enhance Napa's rich agricultural heritage, and promote good stewardship of Napa's soils, watersheds, wildlife habitat and open space. It is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge the Napa County Farm Bureau today and wish it great success in future years.

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF MARINE NAVIGATION SAFETY AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CRITERIA FOR OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on April 16, 2013, the House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittees on Oversight and Energy held a joint hearing titled, "Assessing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Wind Energy Incentives." The attached document contains excerpts from an analysis that is part of the record for that hearing.

"A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF MARINE NAVIGATION SAFETY AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CRITERIA FOR OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS, MARCH 11, 2013", BY: JOHN F. MCGOWAN, RADM USCG (RET), FOR: THE MCGOWAN GROUP, LLC.

INTRODUCTION

The following has been excerpted from an analysis performed in March 2013 by The McGowan Group, LLC.

In recent years, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has taken steps to establish a process and standards for the leasing of areas for development of Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREIs) on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). In 2006, the USCG embarked on setting standards to safeguard marine safety and marine environmental protection for the siting and operation of OREIs on the nation's waterways and oceans. In response to special legislation enacted in 2006, the USCG was also required to establish navigational safety terms and conditions (T&C) specifically for Nantucket Sound due to the proposal for the 130 turbine Cape Wind Associates (CWA) OREI.

This report provides a comparative analysis of the T&C for Nantucket Sound under Section 414 of the Coast Guard Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (CGMTA) and the navigational safety actions taken elsewhere or now under development by USCG and BOEM. As this report concludes, the Nantucket Sound standards provide significantly less protection for navigation safety than the comparative measures established or proposed for every other OREI location.

THE SITE AND THE DESIGN (NANTUCKET SOUND AND CAPE WIND)

Nantucket Sound is not only a heavily used body of water, but one of the most dangerous places to navigate in the U.S. In fact, the seaman's' handbook, The Coast Pilot, singles out Nantucket Sound for special caution due to the frequent occurrence of wind, fog, and high velocity currents.

Horseshoe Shoal, found near the center of Nantucket Sound, is a well-known and marked hazard whose rocks are seldom visible above the Sound's surface. Water depths in and around the Shoal vary from 2 ft. to nearly 60 ft. The shoal is bounded by the North Channel, which runs below Great Neck and Hyannis, and the Main Channel, which runs from Vineyard Sound from the west to the Atlantic Ocean to the east. The Main Channel that the CWA facility would abut has a controlling depth of thirty feet. The proposed project site is virtually surrounded

by general anchorages for vessels awaiting entry into port, conducting repairs, or escaping or riding-out bad weather or visibility that is common in Nantucket Sound.

Other than marked channels and charts, there are no Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS), vessel traffic reporting or control systems in place in the Sound. The port of Boston, Buzzards Bay, the Cape Cod Canal, and Rhode Island Sound all have TSS ship routes, or in the case of the Cape Cod Canal and Buzzard's Bay, vessel reporting systems in place. These USCG systems significantly mitigate navigational risk and play a prominent role in the navigational risk assessment for other areas being considered as potential sites for offshore wind facilities on the Atlantic coast. The absence of TSS or other vessel control measures makes navigational risk in the Sound subject to comparatively greater risks.

While the Main Channel in Nantucket Sound can support vessels with drafts up to 24 ft., including cruise liners, it also serves as the main artery for ferries connecting the Sound's islands and for an estimated 250 large oceangoing fishing vessels. The proposed site for the CWA facility borders these channels and routes extensively used year-round by the ferry systems, some of which offer high-speed service at 30 knots on all its sides.

The CWA proposal would place the WTGs directly adjacent to these busy vessel routes, in some cases to be constructed within 975 ft. to 1,200 ft. from the edge of the North and Main channels, respectively. Without an additional buffer from these routes, an allision with the nearest WTGs would occur in a mere 60 seconds, at normal speeds, for a vessel or boat that leaves the channel. A high speed ferry would have 20 seconds to detect, take action, and respond to avoid such allisions. Collision risk with vessels traveling within or adjacent to the project site also would be a problem due to WTG interference with navigation and collision avoidance radar.

SECTION 414 AND THE 2008 MMS FEIS

In 2005, Congress enacted Section 414 of the Coast Guard Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (CGMTA). Section 414 requires the USCG to "specify the reasonable terms and conditions the Commandant determines necessary to provide for navigational safety with respect to the proposed lease, easement, or right-of-way and each alternative to the proposed lease, easement or right-of-way considered by" the Secretary of the Interior for an offshore wind energy facility in Nantucket Sound.

Section 414 makes it clear that the T&C are to protect the navigational status quo, not to protect CWA or its design. The USCG can fulfill this duty only by developing T&C that ensure the project does not present navigational risks, including the possible need to alter the project design through the establishment of a buffer zone from existing shipping and ferry routes, or to deny the lease application at the proposed location. The burden to provide for navigational safety belongs to CWA, not to mariners, fishermen, or the public.

In late 2008, USCG altered its approach that would have addressed navigation safety concerns by including changes to the project, to instead adopt the position that the project had to be accepted as it was proposed. As a result, all burden for safety was placed on mariners and USCG did not recommend a safety separation or buffer zone from the Sound's established channels and shipping routes. Several lawsuits are pending against the CWA project, including challenge of the USCG T&C.

BOEM'S EAS

BOEM began implementing DOI's "Smart from the Start" initiative in 2011 with USCG

and other agencies to produce environmental assessments (EAs) for offshore wind development. The initiative called for the identification of areas on the Atlantic OCS that were most suitable for commercial wind energy and the availability of those areas for leasing and site assessment. During 2011, BOEM published Notices identifying those ocean areas and requested public comment.

Significant public comment was received from maritime interests in response to the BOEM Notices. Major changes were made to the various Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) including excluded areas. The EAs provide mitigation of marine navigation risk by outright exclusion of areas that could produce navigation or fishing conflict and by providing safe separation/buffer zones between WEAs and vessel routes. The following safety criteria are evident from the final selection of lease blocks in these EAs:

The presence of Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS) or other vessel routing/control measures facilitate the safe designation of WEAs in ocean areas bearing volumes of marine traffic and/or fishing activity.

Safety separation/buffer zones of 1 nm from TSSs and from shipping routes should be applied in WEA identification as well as in subsequent site selection.

Marine traffic routes and fishing areas should be identified and their densities estimated and projected for future growth and expansion in defining the limits of WEAs.

Blocks should be excluded which would conflict with the safe operation and transit of shipping on recognized routes and from vessels working in traditional fishing areas.

None of these criteria were applied to the siting, size and shape of the CWA proposal for Nantucket Sound.

USCG ACPARS

Concurrent with the BOEM "Smart from the Start" process, in 2011, USCG embarked on a separate study whose scope would influence OREI facility siting and design. The USCG issued its first and interim report in July 2012. The final report is not expected to be issued until the end of 2013.

The core of the USCG ACPARS analysis and the basis for its recommended exclusions from the WEAs proposed in the BOEM Notices is the "R-Y-G" methodology developed from standards and criteria for OREIs applied in the UK and which provide three break points between WEAs and vessel traffic routes:

1 nm—The minimum separation distance to the parallel boundary of a TSS. At this distance there would still be S band radar interference and automatic radar plotting aid (ARPA) is adversely affected. This is also the boundary between High/Medium navigational safety risk.

2 nm—The separation distance where compliance with COLREGS becomes less challenging, mitigation measures would still be required to reduce risk As Low as Reasonably Practicable (ALARP). This is also the boundary between Medium/Low navigational safety risk.

5 nm—The separation distance where there are minimal impacts to navigational safety and risk should be acceptable without additional mitigation. This is also the boundary between Low/Very Low navigational safety risk.

ACPARS examined the shipping routes and patterns for each area as well as individual blocks in the WEAs proposed by BOEM. Blocks that were determined to be hazardous to marine navigation and to the marine environment were "colored" RED, which the group defined as: "those blocks, or portions of blocks, that cannot/should not be developed now or in the future because of vessel traffic usage. Development of these blocks

would have an unacceptable impact to navigational safety and precludes development." YELLOW BLOCKS were defined as "those blocks, or portions of blocks, that require further study/analysis of existing traffic usage/patterns as well as projected future traffic increases based on development of adjoining/adjacent blocks. Development of these blocks would potentially have an unacceptable impact on navigational safety which requires additional study to determine the risk and possible mitigation if developed." GREEN BLOCKS were defined as "those blocks, or portions of blocks, whose development would, based on available information, pose minimal to no detrimental impact to navigational safety. Traffic using these blocks can be 're-routed' around developed alternative energy sites. These blocks would require minimal, if any, mitigation."

ACPARS stated: "Although consensus was not reached, the majority of the ACPARS Workgroup recommended the use of a 1NM separation distance from shipping routes for determining the boundary between Yellow and Red Blocks. As stated above there was consensus for using 5NM as the minimum distance from shipping routes for Green Blocks."

COMPARISON—NANTUCKET SOUND VERSUS THE OREI NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

The attached Figure 4-12 has been excerpted from the BOEM EA for Massachusetts and displays the TSS schemes for Rhode Island Sound, the Port of Boston, and the approaches to NY. It shows "High" density vessel tracks in a yellow to salmon color scheme. Figure 1 shows commercial vessels in Nantucket Sound, specifically its Main Channel, in heavy volumes very similar to those studied for the proposed WEAs in the Massachusetts and in the Rhode Island & Massachusetts EAs produced by BOEM.

What is not shown in these Figures is the disparity of navigation risk and of displacement of fishing activities that would be created by OREIs in the various WEAs as compared to CWA. Using the WEA area described in the RI & MA BOEM EA (RIMAWEA) as a comparison to the proposed CWA site, several factors emerge that drive starkly different navigational and operational risk environments that transiting vessels must overcome.

The RIMAWEA would be located adjacent to the high density TSS in Rhode Island Sound. The vessel one-way lanes of the TSS are each 1 nm wide with depths ranging from 60-120 ft. The Main Channel directly adjacent to the CWA site on Horseshoe Shoal can be visualized as a higher risk single-lane carrying vessel traffic in multiple directions which narrows to 3/4 nm between two dangerous shoals with 30-60 ft. of water at the junction of heavy vessel traffic crossing from east to west and north to south. There are few shoals and ledges in the direct vicinity of the RIMAWEA and the RI TSS; vessels leaving the TSS by design or in emergency have "sea room" to maneuver and recover in water depths ranging from 60-160 ft. Utilizing both BOEM EA and ACPARS criteria, a troubled vessel seeking to avoid a casualty with a WTG placed near the TSS or with another vessel hidden in radar interference from the facility would have a 1 nm buffer space between the RIMAWEA TSS and other vessel routes to safely react. ACPARS examined the vessel routes and traffic density for the RIMAWEA proposed for RI Sound, the region most akin to the navigation conditions found in Nantucket Sound. USCG requested that BOEM exclude 16 blocks from the RIMAWEA to safeguard navigation safety for vessels on routes or within the TSS which would pass within a safety buffer of 1 nm from the WEA.

USCG also requested BOEM include the following statement in the EA: "UK Maritime Guidance Note MGN-71 and the expertise of waterways SME's to evaluate and/or identify individual BOEMRE RFIs/CFIs. Based on MGN-371, any areas <1 NM from existing shipping routes pose a high risk to navigational safety and are not considered acceptable for the placement OREIs. Areas >5NM from existing shipping routes are considered to pose minimal risk to navigational safety. Everything between 1NM and 5NM would require analysis to determine if mitigation factors could be applied to bring navigational safety risk to within acceptable levels. Please note that impacts to radar and ARPA still occur outside of 1 NM which will have to be evaluated along with other potential impacts. The above are only planning guidelines and a full navigational risk assessment will be required as part of the EIS prior to approving construction of any OREIs."

In contrast, USCG accepted the design and siting of the CWA facility without challenge and without imposing any minimum separation distance between the surrounding vessel routes and channels and the facility's WTGs. The CWA facility design and placement of its WTGs would provide the crew of a passenger ferry or boat that leaves the channel a mere 60 seconds, at normal speeds, and a high speed ferry a mere 20 seconds to detect, take action and respond to avoid a collision with an adjacent WTG.

Another significant disparity lies in the treatment of the safety and operational needs of commercial fishing vessels. The 2012 BOEM EAs examined and then excluded entire blocks and sections of the proposed WEAs to prevent the displacement of those vessels and their traditional fishing activity. BOEM appears to have adopted the position that commercial fishing vessels and their operating techniques make for an unacceptable safety risk when operating within or in the vicinity of a WEA. BOEM, MMS, and USCG took the opposite tack in their review and acceptance of the CWA proposal. The repeated complaints of the fishing industry in the Sound that the CWA facility would make it unsafe for them to fish on or adjacent to the rich fishing grounds at Horseshoe Shoal were simply ignored or obfuscated.

CONCLUSION

1. The application of safe separation/buffer zones in the design of offshore WEAs and the exclusion of ocean blocks to eliminate potential conflicts with the marine navigation safety needs have been uniformly applied to all WEAs with the exception of Nantucket Sound.

2. USCG has failed to effectively apply the same marine navigation safety and environmental protection standards, guidance, and criteria it developed for OREIs in the U.S. to the CWA facility.

3. Neither a sufficient and meaningful site assessment nor an accurate and detailed vessel traffic assessment has been conducted for the CWA proposed facility.

4. A navigational risk assessment to a recognized standard has not been conducted nor have adequate and effective marine safety mitigation actions been identified for CWA.

5. The CWA facility is fatally flawed as currently designed and sited. It is incompatible with the needs of marine transportation in Nantucket Sound and is an unnecessary and unacceptable threat to the current-day and future users of Nantucket Sound's waterways.

HONORING THE DELTA SIGMA THETA CENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for their Centennial Celebration. Founded at Howard University in 1913, this international sorority has long focused on providing young women with the strength and experience to lead.

Whether in law, science, business, or education, Delta alumnae all have one thing in common: they are dedicated to serving their communities. The five points of the Delta experience are Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement.

The strength they gain through focused development on these points doesn't just benefit the young women who join Delta Sigma Theta. Through projects like the Delta Towers here in Washington D.C., their work with Habitat for Humanity across our nation, or their youth outreach programs—we are all better for the generosity of the Deltas we know and love.

To all the Delta sisters out there—best wishes for the next hundred years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 361, I was unable to vote due to a recent medical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of June 24, 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013:

Rollcall No. 287: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2383, "yea."

Rollcall No. 288: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1092, "yea."

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013:

Rollcall No. 289: Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 1613, H.R. 2231, and H.R. 2410, "nay."

Rollcall No. 290: Motion on Agreeing to the Resolution on the Rule H.R. 1613, H.R. 2231, and H.R. 2410, "nay."

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013:

Rollcall No. 291: Grayson of Florida Part A Amendment No. 1, as Modified, "yea."

Rollcall No. 292: Motion to Recommit with Instructions for H.R. 1613, "yea."

Rollcall No. 293: Final Passage of H.R. 1613—Outer Continental Shelf Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreements Authorization Act, “no.”

Rollcall No. 294: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1864, “yea.”

Rollcall No. 295: Hastings of Florida Part B Amendment No. 2, “aye.”

Rollcall No. 296: Flores of Texas Part B Amendment No. 4, “no.”

Rollcall No. 297: Cassidy of Louisiana Part B Amendment No. 5, as Modified, “no.”

Rollcall No. 298: Rigell of Virginia Part B Amendment No. 7, “no.”

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2013:

Rollcall No. 299: DeFazio of Oregon Part B Amendment No. 8, “aye.”

Rollcall No. 300: Broun of Georgia Part B Amendment No. 9, “no.”

Rollcall No. 301: Grayson of Florida Part B Amendment No. 10, as Modified, “aye.”

Rollcall No. 302: Capps of California Part B Amendment No. 11, “aye.”

Rollcall No. 303: Motion to Recommit with Instructions for H.R. 2231, “aye.”

Rollcall No. 304: Final Passage of H.R. 2231—Offshore Energy and Jobs Act, “no.”

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF CHAMPLAIN, NEW YORK

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 225th Anniversary of the town of Champlain, NY.

The French explorer, Samuel De Champlain, was the first European to discover and name the lake. Established in 1788, the town was formed after Pliny Moore, one of its founders, received a land grant for enlisting in the New York militia in 1781 during the American Revolution, including extensive shoreline along Lake Champlain. It was Moore who remained an essential figure in the town's early development, building the first saw mill, becoming the first county judge and merchant, and later as a prominent politician, representing Champlain in the New York Assembly.

The town of Champlain also played a vital role during the War of 1812. In 1814, Champlain was crucial in securing the nation's northern border and contributed to the American victory at the Battle of Plattsburgh, also known as the Battle of Lake Champlain.

Situated just outside of the Adirondack Park, today the town is a gateway for visitors to many popular attractions including hiking, fishing, camping and other outdoor activities. It also contains one of the most important commercial gateways on the northern border and is central in connecting Quebec, Montreal and New York City, which facilitates substantial trade between the US and Canada.

Over time, its residents have grown in population and in pride, recognizing their town's unique history to the area and their country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the residents of Champlain reaching this milestone.

CITIZENS RAISE AWARENESS OF GENOCIDE THROUGH THE ONE MILLION BONES DEMONSTRATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, residents from across the country participated in the One Million Bones demonstration on the National Mall to raise awareness about the acts of genocide and mass atrocities in Africa and the Middle East.

Many of the participants visited with their respective Congressional offices, and I am pleased to enter into the Congressional Record a statement on behalf of my constituents, Alison Lockett and Taylor Lane, who met with staff from my office.

We the House of Representatives resolve that:

In support of the One Million Bones efforts to raise awareness of on-going genocides and mass atrocities in the world today;

Consistent with the UN's having defined genocide as “Any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life, calculated to bring about physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within a group; [and] forcibly transferring children of the group to another group;”

In remembrance of the lives lost in past acts of genocide including the genocides in Nazi Germany, Rwanda, and Sudan in which:

The Holocaust was an act of genocide by Nazi Germany to eradicate Non-Aryan population during World War II in which 11 million people were killed;

The civil war in Rwanda from April 6, 1994, to July 16, 1994, in which acts of genocide were committed by extremist Hutus through the militia, the Interhamawe, and the government army against Tutsis, moderate Hutus, and the Twa in which over 1 million people were killed;

The events in Sudan from 2003 to present have involved acts of genocide by the Muslim Arab Sudanese against the Muslim black Sudanese through the Janjaweed militia and the Sudanese army in which 6 million people were killed before 2003 and since then an additional 400,000 have died.

Resolved that we—

1. view all human beings as equals no matter their nationality, ethnicity, race, or religion;
2. recognize these events as genocide and condemn them as such

3. urge all Members of Congress to condemn those responsible for the acts of genocide from occurring;

4. will continue to work with the One Million Bones project to educate all people on the horrors of genocide and to prevent any future acts of genocide from occurring

5. will take action through available means to prevent future acts of genocide from occurring.

HONORING THE AMERICAN-ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the American-Italian Heritage Society on the occasion of breaking ground on their new headquarters.

The American-Italian Heritage Society was founded in Omaha in 1980 by seven individuals in order to preserve their Italian heritage in the community. Since its founding, the organization has been dedicated to encouraging awareness of Italian traditions, including history, culture, and language, among many other aspects.

This new building serving as their headquarters will provide a permanent meeting center for members of the American-Italian Heritage Society to gather. Here they will be able to host their traditional Italian courses and many other activities for both children and adults. The society also hosts many events for members and guests, such as, the annual La Festa Italiana, which has been held for nearly thirty years. Additionally, many fundraisers have been held such as the American-Italian Heritage Society pasta dinners, which allow members of the Omaha area to embrace Italian culture.

The American-Italian Heritage Society has grown significantly since it's founding with now over 1,000 members. It hopes to continue to grow by adding a cultural museum and library to preserve Italian culture in Omaha.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating The American-Italian Heritage Society on their new building. The Omaha community and I recognize all of the advances the American-Italian Heritage Society has made to not only celebrate Italian culture and tradition but to educate the future generations as well.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. 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 \$16,738,167,165,761.57. We've added \$6,111,190,116,848.49 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JOSEPH BLICK

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor District Court Judge

Joseph A. Blick, Jr., a dedicated public servant and worthy recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, an honor awarded by the governor of North Carolina.

In the journey of life, it is a privilege to meet an individual like Joe Blick—a man of strong faith who always makes time for his family, church, and the local community. Joe rarely utters the word “no,” but instead eagerly seeks opportunities to help others. He has been a role model for the Greenville youth by volunteering to coach sports or help with the youth group at St. Peter Catholic Church. He is a man who teaches fairness and compassion in and out of the courtroom and has always led by example.

A prime example of Mr. Blick’s generous nature comes in his decision to retire a year early, giving up his full retirement status in order to accept a teaching position at St. Peter’s Catholic School. As always, he has chosen to follow the will of God and understands that teaching the young men and women who represent America’s future is his calling.

This new position will represent a return to the classroom for Judge Blick, who taught and coached students in Moore County, North Carolina, before attending law school at Wake Forest University. After graduating, he went on to work for 16 years as an assistant district attorney before assuming the title of district court judge and presiding over the 3A judicial district for 14 years.

Joe’s commitment to Pitt County has been admired by many, including myself. In recognition of his extensive record of public service, he has been honored with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine—a prestigious award presented to individuals who display a strong dedication to the state of North Carolina.

I join with Joe’s wife, Mary; his two sons and daughters-in-law, Jeff and Caroline and Brian and Kristen; and his three grandchildren in congratulating him on his many achievements. During my many years of friendship with the Blick family, I had the distinct honor of nominating Brian to the naval academy, from which he graduated in May of 2012.

John Wesley once said that “[o]ne of the principal rules of religion is to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since he is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbor; which he receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us.”

Judge Blick has certainly exemplified this spirit of service, and I am confident that his dedication to God, his family, and his community will continue as he takes this next step in life’s journey. I am grateful for Judge Blick’s tireless commitment to the Greenville community and pleased to have him recognized by the United States Congress, an honor which he truly deserves.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARK SHEPPARD, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA STATE PORT AUTHORITY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of an influential and beloved

Mobilian who played an instrumental role in the growth of the Port of Mobile and the regional economy. Mr. Mark Sheppard, Vice President for Trade and Development at the Alabama State Port Authority, recently passed away at the age of 61.

A native of Mobile and a graduate of the University of South Alabama, Mr. Sheppard enjoyed a maritime career which spanned more than 30 years, beginning with a management trainee position for United States Lines. He later worked for a number of companies along the Gulf of Mexico, including Hapag-Lloyd, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines and Nedlloyd Lines, where he managed direct sales, marketing and integrated logistics.

Mr. Sheppard joined the Alabama State Port Authority in 2005, where he led trade and carrier development for the Authority’s intermodal investments. Most notably, he is credited—despite a global economic recession—with expanding both business and ocean carrier service at the authority’s new container terminal between 2008 and 2010. That trend continued in 2011, when year-over-year container traffic increased by another 31 percent.

His leadership was further evident in 2012, when the Port Authority’s containerized, steel and export coal volumes all posted significant growth. And growth is projected to continue with planned investments in intermodal rail, warehousing and terminal upgrades to expand capacity and market reach.

In addition to his responsibilities with the Port Authority, Mr. Sheppard also remained active in the broader maritime and international communities, serving on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council and as vice chairman and chairman-elect for the Alabama Germany Partnership.

Alabama State Port Authority Director James K. Lyons reflected on the loss of Mr. Sheppard and his valuable contributions to Alabama and the Gulf Coast: “Mark Sheppard’s sudden passing comes as a deep shock to our maritime and international trade community. He was a key member of our team and a good friend.”

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend my personal condolences to his family, including his daughter, Jessica, who is a member of my Washington, DC office staff, as well as his brother Tim Sheppard; and two sisters, Brenda Sheppard and Sonya Bell. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

NELSON MANDELA
INTERNATIONAL DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to President Nelson Mandela and to commemorate the 5th anniversary of “Nelson Mandela International Day.” On this special day, the thoughts, prayers, and wishes of all Americans, and peace loving people the world over, are with Nelson Mandela and his family.

In 2009, the United Nations dedicated this day in recognition of Nelson Mandela’s commitment to humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international

peacemaker, and as the first elected president of a free, democratic, and multiracial Republic of South Africa. Nelson Mandela dedicated his life to serving humanity in the fields of conflict resolution, race relations, the promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality, the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, the uplift of poor and underdeveloped communities, and the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a world culture of peace.

In honoring these dreams, hopes, goals, and acts, the United Nations calls upon people everywhere to devote 67 minutes today to helping others, one minute honoring each year that Nelson Mandela devoted to us, humanity. Through our service to others, we honor the achievements and sacrifices of Nelson Mandela.

Today we honor the life and work of a man who by his courage, commitment to justice, grace in the face of unearned suffering, and capacity to forgive continues to inspire the world.

In the words of Nelson Mandela: “For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

Happy birthday to one of the greatest men of our time.

EGYPT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I watched with great interest the recent events in Egypt where millions took to the street in support of real democracy, real freedom, and the actual upholding and protection of fundamental human rights. Sadly, those who promote and preach violence continue to assert the dominance of their ideology and rights to the exclusion and detriment of anyone who does not agree with them.

In light of these recent events, I would like to submit for the Record a short letter from the Board of Governors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt regarding Egypt and the desires of the Egyptian people.

The business community, the human rights and democracy activists, and even Egyptian government officials are asking for our support for democracy and freedom.

In light of these recent events, it is vital to note that due to the complete absence of an impeachment process and a working parliament, there was no established mechanism for a transition of power—the only course of action available and possible to the people was “popular impeachment.”

It is critical that the Egyptian people know that we stand with them in this time of transition as they seek, once again, to draft a Constitution that protects and upholds the rights of all Egyptians and maintains international norms and standards, and as they seek to build and strengthen institutions and processes of democracy, transparency, and freedom.

I urge the Congress to respond to recent events in Egypt by supporting and working with those in the country who desire to protect and uphold fundamental human rights and to

build and strength democracy and freedom for all Egyptians.

AMERICAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE IN EGYPT,

July 7, 2013.

As Americans celebrated their Independence Day and reminded the world of the values of democracy based on the principles of inclusiveness, respect for the rights of minorities and equality for all, millions of Egyptians went to the streets, throughout the country, to demand their own democracy and the right to a better life and a better Egypt.

The historic developments that began June 30 included widespread demonstrations across Egypt's governorates involving more than 25 million Egyptians. The protests vastly exceeded the numbers that ignited the January 25th Revolution in 2011, and is believed to have been the largest peaceful demonstration in world history. This citizen-led "coup for democracy" was a genuine reflection of the fact that the peoples' desire for real democratic change remained unfulfilled.

The popular demonstrations, according to many Egyptians, stemmed from flagrant violations of democratic principles, starting with then President Mohamed Morsi's constitutional declaration in November 2012, in which he effectively declared himself above the law. Egypt's first democratically-elected president, whom we genuinely hoped would be a president for all Egyptians, wantonly expanded his powers and focused on implementing an ideological agenda rather than addressing the serious economic crisis facing the country. He deliberately blocked the creation of a constitution that guaranteed checks and balances and provided equality for all. The president's refusal to compromise and his gross mismanagement of government affairs jeopardized the stability of the region's most populous nation and directly affected its crucial strategic role.

It is important to note that it was not economic failures that precipitated the demonstrations of June 30, but rather, the vast majority of demonstrators saw a blatant attempt by the government to reshape Egypt's complex, multi-variant, pluralistic culture by dismantling the judiciary, suppressing the independent media, repressing freedom of speech and dissent and refusing to recognize the rights of minorities and women. The Egyptian people demanded these rights and values following the January 25 revolution, but they were dismissed and ignored by the government that came to power.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt is the leading business association in

Egypt and the Middle East with over 1,800 members. For over 35 years, we have promoted business relations between the United States and Egypt, during which time we have built a strong network of business leaders, Members of Congress and their staffs, executive branch officials, and other decision and policy makers in Egypt and the United States. Today, AmCham is communicating a message to its network of friends and business partners.

All of AmCham's members share a commitment to a strong U.S.-Egypt relationship at all levels and an Egyptian economy based on a free market, opportunities for youth, job creation, better education, entrepreneurship and active participation in the global economy. At this critical juncture, we believe that Egypt's relationship with the United States is critical to the long-term success of Egypt's revolutionary process and beyond. We therefore believe it is imperative that the United States:

acknowledge that June 30 was a "people's revolution" and nothing else;

support the transitional plan for new, free, transparent multi-party elections;

provide leadership in the international community to mobilize the economic assistance that Egypt requires in the short-term to stabilize its economy;

initiate a sustained high-level economic dialogue with Egypt designed to create the conditions for long term, private-sector led growth;

encourage U.S. businesses to invest in Egypt.

A strong, stable, moderate and truly democratic Egypt is in the best interest of both countries, and those interests would be adversely affected if current U.S. policymakers elect to disengage from Egypt and its people in their quest for true democracy or reduce current levels of support for the Egyptian military. Over the past two years, many of the largest U.S. multinationals who are active members of AmCham (including many Fortune 500 companies) have remained engaged in and committed to Egypt. They are bullish on Egypt's future and its future prospects. They are confident that the Egyptian people will settle for nothing less than a real democracy and an economy that offers opportunity for all.

In that spirit, and during this difficult period in Egypt's history, AmCham appreciates the support you have offered Egypt over many years and looks forward to stronger business ties between Egypt and the United States that are based on mutual respect and understanding. Most importantly, we appre-

ciate your continuous and invaluable support to Egypt and the Egyptian people.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF GOVERNORS,

*The American Chamber
of Commerce in Egypt.*

HONORING MAX DORIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Max Doria of Vallejo, California.

Mr. Doria has been a dedicated community volunteer for two decades. For the last 16 years, he has served as the Vice President of the Filipino Community of Solano County, Inc. (FCSC). The FCSC is one of the oldest Filipino organizations in Vallejo, and provides numerous services to its members and the community-at-large. He was also the past president of Sekder Day Pangasinan, another important local Filipino organization serving former residents of that Philippine Province.

Mr. Doria is a veteran who faithfully served our country in the United States Navy. After his retirement, he continued to work with other Navy and military retirees as a board member of the Filipino American Retired U.S. Armed Forces Association (FARASUFU).

Together with his son Mel, Mr. Doria operated Doria Protective Services. He often donated his time and resources to provide security for community events. Doria Protective Services is the official security company for the very popular Pista sa Nasyon Filipino Festival on the Vallejo Waterfront each June. He and his staff were responsible for the safety of over 30,000 festival attendees.

Mr. Doria is the building manager for the new Filipino Community Center in Vallejo, which just celebrated its grand opening last May. He is married to Dolly Doria. They have one son Mel, and three grandchildren, Andy, Alexis and Alex.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise and celebrate the accomplishments of Max Doria and to offer him and his family our appreciation for his many years of community service.