

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO CAMPBELLSVILLE
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEY-
BALL TEAM

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Campbellsville University Women's Volleyball Team for their outstanding performance this season. While the team's record-setting 38 wins constitute a monumental achievement in their own right, the fact that the Campbellsville University Volley Tigers won the team's—and the university's—first NCCAA National Championship is truly a testament to their exceptional effort and indomitable spirit.

The Lady Tigers' extraordinary commitment to academic and athletic excellence has not only distinguished them as role-models for their community, but has also earned Campbellsville University the national attention it so richly deserves. It is fitting, then, that the Volley Tigers' tremendous success aptly demonstrates not only their own exacting standards of excellence, but those of the university itself.

In addition to Coach Randy LeBleu and Assistant Coach Amy Eckenfels, I would like to commend the members of the team, Caitlin Dresing, Brooke Marcum, Lilian DaSilva, Tierra Wilham, Lilian Odek, Caroline Martin, Samantha James, Shannon Cahill, Christiana Sindehar, and seniors Jovana Koprivica, Whitney Haynes and Renee Netherton, on their outstanding success. I wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING SERGEANT BENTON
THAMES FOR HIS EXEMPLARY
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA AS COM-
MANDER OF THE RELIEF AT THE
TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOL-
DIER AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL
CEMETERY

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sergeant Benton Thames from the Town of Springfield in Louisiana's Sixth's Congressional District. It gives me great pleasure to extend to Sergeant Thames immense gratitude and appreciation for his exemplary service to our country as Commander of the Relief at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Sergeant Thames has dutifully guarded the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for over two years. His responsibilities include changing of the guard and laying of the wreath at the Tomb. Sergeant Thames strives to make this

ceremony special for the thousands of veterans and Americans who visit this sacred landmark annually. Sergeant Thames' dedicated service and commitment to our brave and courageous veterans and fallen heroes is truly admirable.

Sergeant Thames is a graduate of Springfield High School, and a former resident of Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. In his spare time, Sergeant Thames volunteers with the Louisiana Honor Air program which aids World War II veterans in a variety of ways. I am honored by Sergeant Thames' service to our country and wish him continued success as Commander of the Relief at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
DR. WILLIAM HENRY "BILL"
COSBY JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. William Henry "Bill" Cosby Jr.—a husband, a father, a renowned entertainer, and an activist who has recently been selected to receive the Kennedy Center's 12th Annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. His contributions as an author, writer, actor, singer, comedian, and television producer span every facet of the entertainment industry and his work is beloved around the world.

In 1961, Mr. Cosby was the first African American to win the coveted Emmy award for his work on the TV show, "I Spy." Since then, Mr. Cosby has garnered numerous awards for excellence in the performing arts including the Golden Globe, a People's Choice award, and Grammy and Emmy awards. His natural comedic talent was first noticed in college when he attended Temple University and worked as a bartender. His quick wit and laid-back style easily drew others to him, including the legendary producer and director Carl Reiner. During his successful career in entertainment, Mr. Cosby remained committed to education, eventually earning a doctorate degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Mr. Cosby is a rare comedic genius. He is intelligent, creative and never relies on profanity. His popular stand-up comedy performances are drawn from personal experiences such as a childhood spent on the streets of Philadelphia and his experiences as husband and a father. His thought provoking performances feature themes of family, love and human fallibilities. In addition to stand-up, his work in television is well known. He worked on hits including the "Electric Company," the animated comedy "Fat Albert and The Cosby Kids" and starred as Dr. Heathcliff Huxtable, the affable, educated and loving father on the hit comedy "The Cosby Show." Mr. Cosby's

work explored challenging family issues softened by comedy. His impact on children and young adults is immeasurable. Even today, Dr. Huxtable continues to be the most beloved television father of all time. Moreover, Mr. Cosby continues to be a mentor and voice of empowerment in urban and black communities. He uplifts and inspires young and old through public forums, music, humor and song. He continues to educate and encourage involvement based on the principles of family unity, community involvement and personal responsibility.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. William Henry "Bill" Cosby. Mr. Cosby's brilliant artistry, unwavering activism and volunteer spirit continue to lighten hearts and enlighten minds by bringing hope and laughter to millions. Mr. Cosby has made and continues to make our nation and our world a better place.

PERMANENT ESTATE TAX RELIEF
FOR FAMILIES, FARMERS, AND
SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4154, a bill that would cut taxes for millionaires at a time when Americans are struggling to hold on to their paychecks, their homes, and their dignity.

Today, one in ten Americans is out of work, one in eight Americans is receiving food assistance, and one in six of our children is living in poverty. With such need in this nation, Congress's primary mission must be to create jobs and strengthen economic security for the American people. When Congress convened in January, the economy was losing 20,000 jobs each day, and we took decisive action to avert the freefall of the economy and to set it on the path to recovery. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made critical investments in our communities, infrastructure, education, and clean energy, and has so far created or saved as many as 1.6 million jobs.

As a result of this decisive action by Congress, the most recent Department of Labor jobs report showed that this country lost 587,000 fewer jobs in November 2009 than January 2009. While a significant improvement over the numbers at the beginning of this year, it is clear that this recession is still exacting a devastating toll. Congress must keep its focus on creating jobs. Legislation is urgently needed to provide assistance to prepare workers to fill occupations like nursing which have a shortage of skilled workers, to invest in new job-creating technologies, and to encourage the next generation of entrepreneurs to produce the new ventures and products that will ensure that the American economy returns to its preeminent position in the world.

• 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.

This legislation does not help the millions of Americans in need nor does it set the right priorities for this country. In such dire economic times with the largest budget deficit in this nation's history, this Congress does not have the luxury of bestowing this tax cut of a quarter-trillion dollars on millionaires.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill that helps only millionaires, and to turn their focus towards the problems of those Americans who are in economic crisis or could shortly be confronted with painful financial decisions if this economy does not start improving its employment outlook.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Chair, last fall, after 8 years of the previous administration looking the other way while Wall Street and the big banks exploited loopholes, we faced a near collapse of our financial system. Deregulation and lax oversight allowed Wall Street and big banks to gamble with the hard-earned money of the American people, compromising our savings and risking our future. Over the last year, Congress has had to make difficult, and frankly unpopular, decisions that were necessary to rescue our economy from the brink of disaster.

The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act will put in place the rules to make sure that this doesn't happen again, to protect the middle-class Americans who play by the rules from the consequences of Wall Street greed. This legislation ends many of the unfair lending practices that created predatory mortgages and waves of foreclosure. By stopping "too big to fail" firms before they threaten to wreak havoc on our economy, H.R. 4173 will finally put an end to the era of taxpayer-funded bailouts.

While many aspects of this legislation are important, perhaps its most significant achievement is the establishment of an agency whose primary mission is to ensure the safety of financial products and look out for consumers. For too long, all of our fractured regulatory agencies have only looked out for the financial institutions they work for. The Consumer Financial Protection Agency will look out for unsafe financial products the same way the FDA monitors unsafe medicines or the Consumer Product Safety Commission examines our children's toys.

While we have taken extraordinary actions to correct our economic crisis, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection act takes the necessary actions to hold accountable the people responsible for last year's crisis and to prevent another crisis in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DENNIS SANDLIN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Doctor Dennis Sandlin, a Kentucky physician who lost his life, standing fast in the face of danger to practice ethical and responsible medicine in a medically underserved region, inundated with poverty and drug addiction.

On December 8, 2009, Doctor Sandlin was tragically murdered in front of nurses and staff at the Leatherwood-Blackey Medical Clinic in Perry County, Kentucky. Doctor Sandlin routinely refused to give doctor-shopping drug seekers a prescription for pain pills without passing proper evaluation. He refused to allow his practice to be part of the drug epidemic, although many physicians in the past have given in to fear of demands and threats by drug seekers across the region. After being denied narcotics for a second time that morning, a patient returned to Doctor Sandlin's office and fatally shot him in the head.

Doctor Sandlin returned home to Perry County, after graduating from the University of Louisville's School of Medicine, to provide healthcare to less fortunate individuals. He served generations of families for 28 years until his untimely death. Doctor Sandlin's medical practice may be over, but his style of practice will live on as the pinnacle of good medicine.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in memory of Doctor Dennis Sandlin. In my opinion, he died a hero. Every physician, pharmacist, law enforcement official, medical and pharmacy student can learn from Doctor Sandlin's tenacity to practice responsible medicine and never give place to fear.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 939, 940, 942, 943, and 945 I was absent from the House.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. BUYER. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4173 because it does not

exempt the VA's very successful Loan Guaranty program from regulation under the provisions of this bill. The saying, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it," applies. The VA guaranteed loans are not experiencing the high rates of delinquency and foreclosure like those backed by FHA. VA, to its credit, recognized the risks inherent in easing underwriting standards and stayed out of the subprime market.

According to the September 30, 2009 National Delinquency Survey conducted by Mortgage Bankers Association, VA-backed home mortgages are experiencing significantly lower delinquency and foreclosure rates than any other government-backed programs. For example, as of September 30, the delinquency rate for all subprime mortgages was over 28 percent. FHA-backed loans show about a 14.4 percent delinquency rate while only about 8.1 percent of VA loans were delinquent. More ominously, 24.7 percent of subprime loans were in foreclosure (VA quite wisely does not guarantee subprime loans), and 3.3 percent of FHA loans had reached the foreclosure stage but only about 2.3 percent of VA loans were being foreclosed. These differences due to VA's stewardship and the Veterans Affairs Committee's oversight amount to tens of millions of dollars in savings to the taxpayers.

Madam Chair, the provisions of H.R. 4173 would clearly apply to the VA's Loan Guaranty program. For example, in defining the scope and functions covered by the bill, section 4002 excludes only the "Secretary of the Treasury and any agency or bureau under the jurisdiction of the Secretary." That means VA loan guaranty programs are subject to the provisions of the bill. Further in the definitions of "Financial Activity", it includes extending credit. VA has a small direct loan program used to sell their foreclosed properties. The bill's definitions also cover collecting consumer data. VA does that. VA also sells mortgage-based securities on the secondary market. Such activities are covered in the definitions section. The definitions also cover VA's contracts for portfolio servicing, including sales and maintenance of its foreclosed properties. Finally, VA-guaranteed loans offered by lenders would be subject to the jurisdiction of the CPRA rules and regulations.

There are a couple of reasons why VA's loan guaranty program is outperforming the non-VA sector. First, the House Veterans Affairs Committee has oversight of the program and works hard to ensure the program is conducted in a manner that does not stray into products like subprime loans. Second, VA did not reduce its underwriting standards, and the combination of its higher standards along with servicing programs to assist veterans experiencing difficulty, has allowed VA to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

My understanding of this mammoth 1,300 page bill is that the new bureaucracies and czars and whatever else is hidden in the bill will have the ability to affect how the VA loan guaranty programs are offered. Additionally, the broad language in the bill which allows the CFPA the discretion to define its own powers is at best short-sighted and at worst Orwellian. I am reminded that absolute power corrupts absolutely. Moreover, by placing additional tax burdens on financial institutions, many of which invest in mortgage securities offered on the secondary market, mortgage rates will go up. That is exactly what the VA's Loan Guaranty program, or the housing market at large,