

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF DARCY POHLAND

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness I rise today to mourn the passing of my friend and Minnesota news pioneer, Darcy Pohland.

Ms. Pohland was born in Mendota Heights, Minnesota and graduated from Sibley High School. She started her career as an intern at WCCO-TV's Washington, D.C. bureau while attending George Washington University.

In 1963 Pohland accidentally dove into the shallow end of her apartment's swimming pool and broke her neck, causing permanent paralysis from the chest down. After months of rehabilitation at the University of Minnesota, Pohland was hired by WCCO-TV in 1986 as a part-time dispatcher and quickly worked her way to the assignment desk in 1989. In August of 1994, she became one of the nation's first quadriplegic reporters when she was assigned as a full-time local news reporter. Soon she was covering top stories, making her one of WCCO's top reporters.

She will be remembered for being positive, opinionated, and smart. Her love of Minnesota sports was second to none. Most of all, Darcy will be remembered for being the friend you could always count on.

Madam Speaker, the world is a smaller place because of the passing of Darcy Pohland.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT PURCELL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Force Colonel Bob Purcell who died in Fort Worth, Texas, on December 6, 2009.

He was born on February 14, 1931 in Louisville to the late William Tilden Purcell and Mary Baldwin Purcell. He was a 1949 graduate of St. Xavier High School in Louisville. Upon graduating from St. Xavier, he attended the University of Louisville, Speed Scientific School. He attended primary flight training at Marianna Air Base in Marianna, Florida. He received his basic training at Greenville Air Force Base in Mississippi. He graduated in December 1954 as a 2nd lieutenant and also received his pilot wings. He went to advanced training in the F-100, assigned to Kadena AFB in Okinawa. He subsequently upgraded to the F-105 and flew combat missions in Vietnam until he was shot down on July 27, 1965. He was the 17th American captured. He remained a prisoner of war for seven-and-a-half years. He repatriated on February 12th, 1973.

After repatriation, he returned to school and completed studies earning a BA from Bellarmine University and an MA in Political Science from Auburn University. He was also a graduate of the United States Air Force Air University Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base. He finished a distinguished Air Force career as a full Colonel.

After he retired from the Air Force, Percy became a simulator pilot Instructor with American Airlines in Ft. Worth, Texas. He was a former member of St. Louis Bertrand Catholic Church in Louisville where he also attended elementary school.

He loved his family, his friends and his country. He was a true American hero, and I am honored that we live among such men of courage and character.

THE REPUBLICAN MYTH OF SOLVING HEALTH CARE WITH TORT REFORM

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to debunk some of the health care myths we've heard from my friends across the aisle. Listening to my Republican colleagues, you'd think that lawyers were single handedly responsible for breaking our health care system. It's one of the major pillars of their health care proposal they recently unveiled and has long been one of their favorite talking points. They seem to have little else to talk about when it comes to health reform.

I have always believed that you can have your own opinion but you can't have your own facts. For years, Republicans have claimed that because patients are able to sue doctors at whim for inordinate sums of money, doctors have been forced to buy expensive malpractice insurance. This system, they say, is one of the major causes of the nation's beleaguered health care system. But it seems Republicans have been very inventive with their facts.

A new report from Public Citizen undercuts the Republican refrain that health care costs have skyrocketed because doctors have been forced to practice "defensive medicine." The report found that the value of malpractice payments is actually at its lowest since 1999, and when adjusted for inflation, malpractice payments are at their lowest since 1992. The report goes on to show that for five consecutive years, the number of medical malpractice payments has fallen and for six straight years, the value of malpractice payments has fallen. Have we seen a corresponding decrease in health care costs for the last five years? Absolutely not. Quite the opposite, in fact: health care spending rose a staggering 83 percent between 2000 and 2009, while malpractice payments actually fell 8 percent during the same period. Litigation costs were found to be

less than one-half of one percent of health care costs. Blaming our health care crisis on litigation costs is just baloney.

So instead of looking into how we can hold the insurance industry more accountable, my Republican colleagues have made a boogeyman out of devilish trial lawyers. But medical malpractice costs have been wholly stagnant and represent an inconsequential portion of our total health care spending. It's time the Republicans brought some new ideas to the table.

The rest of us know the real reasons why our health care costs are spiraling out of control. Medical inflation continues to outpace general inflation. Insurance companies are making record profits and rewarding their executives with jaw-dropping salaries. The third quarter net income for Humana was almost \$300 million, a 65 percent increase from the third quarter of 2008. The CEO of Aetna made almost \$24 million last year while the CEO of WellPoint made nearly \$10 million. In many areas of the country, people can only get health insurance from only one or two companies, and with such diminished market competition, those companies can charge whatever they want. And the list goes on and on. But my Republican colleagues have conveniently buried their head in the sand and have literally chosen to ignore 99.5 percent of the reasons for our nation's broken health care system.

Sure, it is easy to demonize the trial lawyers. But if we fail to address the true reasons for rapidly escalating health care costs, we will never fix the real problems we're facing and health care costs will continue to skyrocket. To do otherwise would force prevent us from taking this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get reform right. While I know the final health reform bill will be far from perfect, it will still include meaningful and enduring reforms that will drive down costs and help millions of Americans. In the meantime, I hope my Republican colleagues will find themselves a new theme song.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 PRESERVATION ACT OF 2010"

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I am here today to introduce "The Next Generation 9-1-1 Preservation Act of 2010." This bill represents the hard work of my colleague and E9-1-1 Caucus Co-Chair, ANNA ESHOO, as well as our Senate Co-Chair counterparts, Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR and RICHARD BURR.

Representative ESHOO and I have worked on 911 issues for many years and I appreciate her reaching across the aisle to work on these issues. As we both sit on the Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction on these issues,

• 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.

it was only logical that seven years ago we would work together to start this Caucus. This year we welcomed two new Senate Co-Chairs, Senator KLOBUCHAR and Senator BURR who are going to be shepherding this important legislation on the Senate side. I know they share our concerns with E911 service and understand the unique importance of ensuring this technology will expand to the areas that need it most.

Moving forward to "Next Generation 9-1-1" is one of the most important aspects of our legislation. Encouraging rural communities like Illinois' 19th district to invest in these critical technologies is what our Caucus and this legislation are hoping to achieve. My goal, along with my Caucus Co-Chairs is to bring attention for the need for true interoperability in these call centers and ensure that all Americans can have access to these critical emergency services.

Finally, one of the most important parts of our bill is to correct the problem of states diverting their 9-1-1 funds to support other programs. The Next Generation 9-1-1 Preservation Act prevents states that divert funds from receiving the grants in the legislation. In tough economic times I can see how it would be tempting for states to reach into 911 funds but we simply cannot allow these important tax dollars to be used for something other than critical 911 services.

I am proud to be an original sponsor of this legislation and look forward to working with my good friend Representative ESHOO and my Senate Co-Chairs on getting this legislation signed into law.

RECOGNIZING LESTER A. STUMPE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Lester A. Stumpe, an engineer with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) for nearly 3 decades. As an engineer, Lester played a key role in protecting the rivers and streams in northeast Ohio. I am saddened to learn that Lester died on Sunday, March 7 after a 5-year struggle with cancer.

Lester Stumpe had more than 30 years of experience designing and directing a variety of efforts to protect and enhance our water resources. He conducted numerous large-scale multifaceted facilities planning and watershed studies. In total, he directed or managed more than \$20 million in engineering and technical studies that have resulted in several hundred million dollars in constructed projects.

Lester served on a variety of boards and committees to further environmental and infrastructure goals in the Greater Cleveland area. Through his studies and activities, Lester has greatly contributed to our knowledge and protection efforts of both West Creek and Mill Creek, major tributaries to the Cuyahoga River.

Lester was passionately concerned for the streams and watershed areas of Northeast Ohio. His job title was NEORS's "Manager of Watershed Programs, Policy and Technical Support." But for Lester, this was much more than a job or title. Protecting our region's watersheds was Lester's life mission. Even while

battling cancer, Lester lit up with enthusiasm when he communicated his ideas about how to make the Cleveland area's watersheds cleaner and more habitable to the species meant to live there, including the human species.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Lester and expressing condolences to his wife, Marcia Mauter, his children Meagan, Melissa and Justin Mauter, his mother Dorothy, his sister Ruth Tofle, and the many friends, relatives, and colleagues who mourn his loss.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO- PRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the vote on H.R. 2847 due to the untimely death and funeral of one of my staffers' father.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "Nay." If there is one thing the American people agree upon it's that major changes are necessary in order to dig ourselves out of this spending quagmire. The American people want us to reform our spending practices so that our economy can be prosperous once again.

The irony of this "Jobs" bill is that it includes a net tax revenue increase of \$14.3 billion, which will force employers to cut jobs in order to pay more money to the federal government. Strangely, the Democrats attempt to give a tax break to small businesses on one hand but then take away with the other.

This legislation also includes another short-term extension of the highway authorization. Instead of continuing with short-term extensions of transportation funding, Congress needs to enact a meaningful, 6-year surface transportation funding bill.

Today, I introduced the Keeping American Businesses Competitive Act. This legislation would lower the top business tax rate from 35 percent to 22 percent. The United States currently has the second highest corporate tax rate of any industrialized nation, putting American workers and businesses at a huge competitive disadvantage. Rather than the Democrat "solution" of increasing taxes to address job loss, lowering the corporate tax rate will actually put people back to work. According to the Milken Institute, lowering the rate to 22 percent would "create an additional 350,000 manufacturing jobs and increase total employment by 2.13 million."

If this Congress is serious about getting Americans back to work, it should focus its efforts on proven, free-market principles that will level the playing field for our businesses to compete and keep capital and jobs here in the U.S.

For the above reasons, I oppose this bill.

HONORING DR. RITA BORNSTEIN'S CONTRIBUTIONS AS THE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF ROLLINS COLLEGE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. This month, I would like to recognize a few of the phenomenal women from central Florida who are making a distinguished contribution to my district, the great State of Florida, and to our nation as a whole. Today, I honor Dr. Rita Bornstein. Dr. Bornstein's commitment to education and her service as the first female president of Rollins College from 1990 to 2004 was trailblazing. Her distinguished leadership throughout her time at Rollins serves as a model to her unwavering dedication to her students, the university and her overall educational ideals.

Under President Bornstein's leadership, Rollins focused on strengthening its commitment to excellence, innovation, and community. Standards were raised for faculty evaluation, student selectivity, and all aspects of administration. Average SAT scores for entering arts and sciences students rose more than 65 points, and Rollins' place in U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings of "America's Best Colleges" climbed from No. 6 regional university in the South to No. 2, and No. 1 in Florida. That trajectory has continued—Rollins is currently No. 1 in the South. Innovation was encouraged and rewarded, and programs were added in film studies, international business, and sustainable development, as well as the signature Rollins College Conference for first-year students. The college's commitment to building strong communities was enhanced through programs of intellectual discourse, civic engagement, international study, and service learning.

In addition to raising the education standards and national acclaim of Rollins College, President Bornstein also oversaw Rollins' most ambitious fundraising effort. Widely considered to have transformed the college, The Campaign For Rollins secured \$160.2 million, providing support for academic programs, scholarships, faculty chairs, and facilities, and significantly strengthening the college's financial health. Thanks to the generosity of donors, including the largest gift in Rollins' history—alumnus George Cornell's \$93.3-million bequest—and astute financial management, the college's endowment more than quintupled during Bornstein's presidency.

In 2001, she was named to the George D. and Harriet W. Cornell Chair of Distinguished Presidential Leadership when Rollins received a \$10-million gift for the first endowment of a college presidency in the nation. At the conclusion of her 14-year presidency, she was named president emerita and appointed to the George D. and Harriet W. Cornell Chair of Philanthropy and Leadership Development. As a recognized leader in higher education, Dr. Rita Bornstein regularly consults on issues of leadership, governance, and fundraising in the nonprofit sector. She is also the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters and two books, including *Legitimacy in the Academic Presidency: From Entrance to Exit*, published in 2003.

Madam Speaker, during Women's History Month, it is my honor to recognize this remarkable woman whose enthusiasm for education and commitment to excellence can be shown through her great achievements during her time at Rollins College and after. I applaud her accomplishments to our central Florida community, our great State and our Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO RYAN BEDFORD AND TRAVIS JAYNER, SPEED SKATERS, MICHIGANDERS, AND OLYMPIANS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ryan Bedford and Travis Jayner on their performances in the 2010 Winter Olympics. These are two outstanding athletes from my district. Ryan and Travis are great athletes, who can truly be called "Olympians," and who we can be proud of as representatives of America in the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Ryan Bedford of Midland, Michigan, is an outstanding skater and represented the U.S. in the Olympics in the 10,000 meter speed skating event. In fact, Ryan is the reigning U.S. champion in that event. Ryan has a history of impressive skating accomplishments and in a one-week span last spring he won two world championship medals in two different events. Last year, Ryan was a member of the world champion short track relay team, and one week later, as part of the long track speed skating pursuit team, he earned a bronze medal at the 2009 Single Distance Worlds. He started skating at the age of 5, beginning his career at the Midland Speed Skating Club in Michigan.

I also congratulate Travis Jayner on winning the bronze medal in the 5000 meter relay for short track speed skating. Travis trains in Midland, Michigan. On Friday, February 26, Travis won his first Olympic medal when the American speed skating team crossed the finish line in 6:44.498. The 2010 Olympics were his first, but Travis has a long record of speed skating accomplishments: he was the 500 meter National Champion in 2008–09, he won bronze at the 2007 and 2009 World Team Championships, and won two gold medals in the relay at World Cup 5. Travis has become a versatile athlete competing in 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m and 5000m relay teams. He got his start on the ice at the age of 5, after the encouragement and support of his father, who was also a speed skater.

Today I wish to congratulate Ryan Bedford and Travis Jayner for their participation in the 2010 Winter Olympics as true Olympians and athletes my district and our country can be proud to cheer for.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
STUART DUNNINGS, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of the late

Stuart Dunnings, Jr., the first African-American attorney to practice law in Michigan's Capitol City of Lansing, and founder in 1950 of the city's first African-American owned law firm.

Mr. Dunnings, who passed away March 10, 2010, at age 85, was a champion of minorities from the beginning. President of the Lansing Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1951, he had been involved in the civil rights movement for half a century. He led the fight to get Lansing schools to hire more black teachers and successfully represented a Detroit basketball team's black student athletes when they were refused hotel rooms while in a Lansing tournament.

Mr. Dunnings was co-counsel in school desegregation lawsuits in several Michigan cities, and served on civil rights committees and in lawsuits seeking equality for minorities.

In 1992 he was honored by the Michigan State Bar Association as the "Champion of Justice." He was inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Dunnings and his late wife Janet had four children: Stuart III, Steven, Susan and Shauna. All four have law degrees, and one of eight grandchildren is attending law school. Stuart III is the Ingham County Prosecutor.

Born in Staunton, Virginia, Mr. Dunnings graduated from Lincoln University, then from the University of Michigan Law School. During college, he hitchhiked back and forth to the east coast to visit family and seek employment in places like Washington, D.C. before opening his Lansing practice. He often hitchhiked to the courthouse in Mason when his cases were before the court.

Facing the challenges of being the city's first black attorney, Mr. Dunnings practiced law until mid-afternoon, worked the Oldsmobile evening shift on the fender line, and spent weekends cleaning his office building to support himself and his family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Stuart Dunnings, Jr., a man whose hard work, family commitment, and community spirit represent all that is good about our great nation and its people. Mr. Dunnings is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

HAITI CHILDREN PROJECT
FOUNDER S. WADE MCGUINN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, S. Wade McGuinn, who has an extensive record of helping the people of Haiti, is a member of the Home Builders Association of Greater Columbia and is founder and President of McGuinn Construction Management, Inc. and Custom Home Construction Management Systems, Inc (MCM and CHCMS). McGuinn's Construction, which serves as the only full service residential construction management firm in the Midlands, has constructed 1,700 custom homes. He has built more homes in Columbia's metropolitan area than any other custom homebuilder in Columbia.

Taking his business success to the next level, Wade has six land development projects—four of which have shattered sales

records. All of the companies under Mr. McGuinn's business umbrella have overall sales exceeding 12 million dollars annually.

What is most captivating is what Wade has chosen to do with all of this success. He has led several overseas mission trips to Haiti, Mexico, Honduras, and Cuba, serving as a construction team leader for the United Methodist Volunteers in Missions. Known as "Father Wade" to children at a Haitian orphanage, Wade and his wife, Janet, have solely supported an orphanage comprised of 29 children and seven staff members.

Wade founded the Haiti Children Project with the purpose of providing food, shelter, clothing, health care and education through sponsorship, donations, and love. After the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti, Wade encouraged his fellow members in the Home Builders Association of Greater Columbia (HBA) to hold a charitable fundraiser for the Haiti Children project. Over 200 HBA members and their guests attended the event, raising over \$10,000 to send to help the children in Haiti.

I want to thank Wade and Janet for their selfless contributions in South Carolina and across the globe, especially Haiti in its time of extraordinary crisis.

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN OFFICERS

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my colleagues GEORGE RADANOVICH and JIM COSTA, to extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Javier Bejar and Joel Wahlenmaier, who recently died in the line of duty in Minkler, California.

On February 25, 2010, Fresno County Deputy Sheriffs Wahlenmaier and Mark Harris were ambushed and shot while attempting to serve a search warrant. Sadly, Deputy Wahlenmaier died a short time later that day and Reedley Police Officer Bejar, who was critically wounded while providing backup, died on Monday, March 1.

Words are insufficient to convey the depth of pain and loss felt by the families, friends, and colleagues of these brave men. They displayed enormous courage and a true commitment to protecting the public. Their tragic loss will continue to be felt by many for years to come.

CONGRATULATING WINNERS OF
NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1069, congratulating Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith for being awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in physics. These two scientists invented the charge-coupled device, or CCD, while working at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey. The development of

the CCD was a breakthrough in electronic image sensing that led to today's digital cameras and other recording devices. CCDs are now integral components of modern laboratory instruments and medical sensors. The field of astronomy, in particular, benefitted from the invention of the CCD: the Hubble space telescope, the Kepler satellite, and other major astronomical instruments rely on CCDs for their spectacular images. Myself, I have used CCD detectors in physics research. I am deeply pleased that the Nobel Committee chose to reward these researchers' transformative contribution.

It is worth noting that Drs. Boyle and Smith set out to create a new tool for electronic memory, not a new imaging device. The dramatic success of their design is a reminder that research and development is a non-linear process. New products often spring from unexpected discoveries or develop from innovations that were originally intended for a different purpose. That is why our future economic success is inextricably linked to a robust, sustained federal investment in basic scientific research and a true commitment to a healthy national innovation infrastructure.

The creativity and inventiveness of Willard Boyle and George Smith were nurtured in the Bell Labs of the 1960s. That environment was responsible, in large part, for the seven Nobel Prizes that have been awarded for work carried out at Bell Labs over the years. The freedom to pursue science to unpredictable ends was a pillar of our research and development system for decades. Yet this opportunity is far too rare in today's public and private research institutions, and American competitiveness is not a given. A recent study by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation ranked the United States last among forty nations and regions in terms of national improvement in international competitiveness and innovation capacity over the last decade.

With that in mind, we should remember that a Nobel Prize is a lagging indicator of success. It can take decades for the importance of a scientific discovery to be fully understood. As we applaud Willard Boyle and George Smith, we should not forget that the work for which the Nobel Committee honored them in 2009 was completed 40 years earlier—in 1969. Perhaps the best tribute to their legacy—and the best way to ensure our collective success—is to make certain that the scientists and researchers working today in our universities and laboratories have the resources they need today to bring home the Nobel Prizes of 2050.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 103—H. Res. 1031; Article 2, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF GIRL SCOUT WEEK
AND THE 98TH ANNIVERSARY OF
GIRL SCOUTING

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate this week, March 7 through March 13, as Girl Scout Week and the 98th anniversary of Girl Scouting. In the state of Connecticut, we have approximately 44,000 Girl Scouts. I am pleased to see Girl Scouts' strong commitment to enriching the lives of young females, and contributing to our nation's communities, evolve over the past 98 years.

Juliette Gordon Low founded Girl Scouts in 1912. Since then, the organization's membership has grown from 18 members in Savannah, Georgia to 3.4 million members throughout the United States, including U.S. territories, and more than 90 countries through USA Girl Scouts Overseas. Today, there are over 2.4 million girl members, including my daughter, and 928,000 adult members working primarily as volunteers. Throughout history, more than 50 million American women enjoyed Girl Scouting during their childhood. That number continues to grow as Girl Scouts of the USA continues to inspire, challenge, and empower girls everywhere.

The Girls Scouts' mission includes building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make our country and the world a better place. The organization motivates these young women to have fun, create meaningful friendships, and discover the power of young women working together. Through enriching experiences such as extraordinary field trips, skill-building clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardships, girls grow courageous and strong. Girl Scouting encourages girls to develop to their full individual potential; to relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect; to develop values to guide their actions and provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and to contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others.

I know that Connecticut's young women will continue to benefit from the Girl Scouts program for generations to come. That is why we are thankful for the outstanding work they have done in eastern Connecticut communities. Girl Scouts' commitment to community and empowering women and girls is certain to continue to enrich our communities for many more years. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing and celebrating Girl Scout Week and the 98th anniversary of Girl Scouting.

COMMEMORATING THE 45TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the 45th anniversary of the

"Bloody Sunday" massacre, the first of three attempted nonviolent marches from Selma to the State Capitol Building of Alabama. It played a tremendous role in shedding light on the evils of segregation and prejudice that pervaded the United States. I was there, marching from Selma to Montgomery, on March 7, 1965. Among 600 fellow protesters, we famously marched in support of an audacious dream—a march broken up by armed state troopers who brutally assaulted participants, including my dear friend and colleague Representative JOHN LEWIS, who was beaten unconscious and nearly left for dead.

The peaceful demonstrators intended to raise awareness of the brutal murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson by an Alabama State Trooper during a nonviolent demonstration supporting the Voting Rights Act. It only took six blocks into the march before protesters encountered a wall of state troopers. As the protesters attempted to pass, they were nefariously and unnecessarily attacked by nightsticks, fired at with tear gas, and charged at by troopers on horseback. Because of the vicious violence that ensued against the nonviolent protesters attempting to exercise their First Amendment right to freedom of speech, the event became known as "Bloody Sunday."

Images of the vicious massacre were broadcasted throughout the world, including that of the recently widowed Amelia Boynton, a Selma-native who played an integral role in the planning of the marches. "Bloody Sunday" served as veritable evidence of the terrorism against Blacks ingrained in the segregationist movement of the South. The succeeding events played a paramount role in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and raising awareness of the saddening state of racism in this nation.

COMMENDING ROYAL CARIBBEAN
INTERNATIONAL FOR THEIR RE-
LIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary relief efforts of Royal Caribbean International following the earthquake that devastated Haiti this past January.

Long before this latest tragedy brought the world's attention to Haiti, Royal Caribbean had been committed to bringing economic development and opportunities to the impoverished nation. Royal Caribbean has been partnering with Haiti's tourism industry for almost 30 years, employing a large number of Haitians and maintaining a resort at Labadee, a port off the northern coast of Haiti. Therefore, when the earthquake shook the country, they personally felt the effects of the tragedy before them and were compelled to find a way to assist the people of Haiti.

Royal Caribbean immediately set out to provide the people of Haiti with emergency relief. Using their cruise ships for delivery, Royal Caribbean has brought over 120 pallets of materials to Haiti. Additionally, they have provided monetary support to emergency assistance organizations, such as the Pan American Development Foundation, which also provide emergency supplies to the island.

I commend Royal Caribbean for their rapid response to this tragedy and the much-needed assistance and aid they have provided. Furthermore, I would like to express my support for their dedication to long-term rebuilding of Haiti.

Although many found it controversial, I believe that Royal Caribbean's decision to continue to dock at Labadee was the right decision. If the cruise line had bypassed Haiti, it would have worsened an already devastating situation. By continuing to bring guests to Labadee, Royal Caribbean kept Haitians working and brought tourist dollars to the country at a time when Haiti's already struggling economy was at a complete stand-still. This commitment to keeping the Haitian economy going is truly admirable.

I thank Royal Caribbean for their exemplary service to the people of Haiti, not simply in providing emergency aid in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, but in their 30 years of work in Haiti and in their commitment to ensuring a sustainable recovery.

HONORING CHARLTON BOYD

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Charlton Boyd of Shreveport is today being named one of the top two youth volunteers in Louisiana for 2010, in the 15th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This is an extraordinary honor; more than 21,000 young people across the country were considered for state-level recognition in this year's program.

Mr. Charlton Boyd of Shreveport is being recognized for being one of the top two youth volunteers for 2010 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. The awards program, now in its 15th year, is conducted by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, NASSP.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Mr. Charlton Boyd are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions will inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 15 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored nearly 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Mr. Charlton Boyd should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Mr. Charlton Boyd for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. He has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

PERSONAL STATEMENT ON REMOVAL AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2499

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I would like the RECORD to reflect my desire to be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2499, the Puerto Rico Democracy Act of 2009. Due to H.R. 2499's placement on the Union Calendar, I am unable to officially remove myself from this legislation according to the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE 189TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Affairs, I am proud to congratulate the nation of Greece on its upcoming celebration of the 189th anniversary of independence. It's been one hundred and eighty-nine years since Greece obtained freedom from the oppressive Ottoman Empire.

On March 25, 1821, the Greek people rose up against Ottoman oppression and declared their independence. The Greeks had been under occupied rule by the Ottoman Turks for over 400 years. After years of war and negotiations, Greece was finally recognized as an independent nation in 1832.

As the birthplace of democracy, Greece has shared numerous self-government efforts across the world, including here in the United States. America's Founding Fathers were inspired by the political experiences and philosophies of ancient Greece in writing our Constitution and founding our representative democracy. Today, Greece is again a thriving democracy and an example of self-determination for other nations.

Greece has long been one of the United States' closest allies. Greece fought alongside America in every war of the 20th Century and continues to offer strong support in the current war on terrorism.

I am honored to cosponsor H. Res. 1107 which recognizes the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and am pleased that

this bill is being considered by the House of Representatives today.

I would again like to congratulate Greece for celebrating such a momentous occasion. This anniversary is a time to remember the sacrifices of the past, to take pride in your nation, and to look ahead to a future of promise.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES ON WILD ANIMALS AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the policy of the United States on wild animals at the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

CITES was created in 1973 to regulate international trade in endangered species to ensure that it does not threaten their survival. Launched with a few signatory nations, CITES has now 175 parties that have an international obligation and responsibility to protect our planet's endangered animals and plants. Adherence to these protective measures has proven to have benefited the conservation of animals and plants worldwide.

Unfortunately, more and more species are at risk of extinction and international trade, both legal and illegal, has exacerbated the dangers. International wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars a year and to include hundreds of millions of live plants and animals and derived products such as food, leather, fur, ivory, and timber. Such high levels of exploitation of and trade in wild animals and plants, together with other factors such as habitat loss, are capable of bringing some species close to extinction.

Between 1979 and 1989 more than 600,000 African elephants were killed for their ivory, cutting the continent's population in half. Nevertheless, poaching has continued with an estimated 38,000 elephants killed annually and 23.2 tons of poached ivory seized since 2007. As sea ice declines, polar bears will not be able to adapt to a terrestrial-based life resulting in increased mortality, reduced reproduction, increased human-bear conflicts, and overall drastic decline of populations. Bobcats keep being poached for their skins. Several sharks are being severely depleted with declines as high as 99 percent in some areas as a result of the high demand for their fins and meat. Overfishing, increased consumer demand and inadequate enforcement of infractions have led to historically low populations of bluefin tuna.

This month, CITES' signatory nations will meet for the 15th Conference of the Parties to review the status of species in danger of extinction and establish trade restrictions. The

conference will consider proposals offered by several countries to either enhance protections of endangered species or to remove or downlist some animals from the endangered species listings and reauthorize international trade. Several countries which benefit from trade of animals' derived products, such as elephants' ivory, sharks' fins or bluefin tunas' meat, are putting economic interests before wild animals' survival, risking to bring species close to extinction. This is unacceptable.

My resolution will help preserve many endangered animals by urging CITES to accept proposals that protect these species and oppose those proposals that put them in greater danger.

Madam Speaker, the United States has a moral obligation to protect endangered species and their natural habitat. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to the diversity and stability of our environment. We must continue to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of both human beings and the world's most incredible species.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting wildlife and environmental conservation across the globe by supporting this important resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. TIM MURPHY OF PENNSYLVANIA. MADAM SPEAKER, ON ROLL CALL NO. 108, HAD I BEEN PRESENT, I WOULD HAVE VOTED "AYE".

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS
RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, as the tragic events of September 11, 2001, demonstrated, the continued existence of the Taliban and terrorists in Afghanistan poses a threat to the security of the American people. We need to be eliminating those who are organizing to strike at the American people.

That is why we can't afford to "double-down" on a bad policy that infringes on the ability of our troops to successfully execute their mission. Using the men and women of our armed forces to secure ground subjects them unnecessarily to risks that we should not be taking.

Several of my colleagues have stated that to end this conflict would fail to honor those who have fought and died in Afghanistan. Yet, we all acknowledge that there isn't a single American soldier who has laid down his or her life for this country that isn't a hero.

Instead, I think of families like that of Kyle Coutu. Kyle was 20 years old and had just graduated from William E. Tolman High School last June, when he was killed on February 18, 2010, in the Helmand Province dur-

ing combat operations. How many more mothers like Melissa Coutu will have to bury their son or daughter? For how much longer will we ask America's youth to risk their lives for the people of Afghanistan?

Rather than put our troops in harm's way, the best way to honor them is to take care of them when they return home, ending veteran homelessness and unemployment, and fully funding veterans' health care, particularly for the treatment of mental health and PTSD.

Additionally, with limited resources, we can't afford to continue a mission in Afghanistan that doesn't move us forward. There are places around the world, like the Horn of Africa, where our commitment and resources could be put to a greater good. More importantly, every dollar spent in Afghanistan is a dollar that can't be invested here at home to invest in our children's education, rebuild our country's infrastructure, and create jobs for American workers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on March 11, 2010, I missed roll call votes 102, 103 and 104. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all.

BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP ACT OF
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4506, the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2010, will authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges into the courts.

Personal bankruptcy filings have increased by 32 percent in 2009 due to the recent economic downturn and skyrocketing unemployment and home foreclosure rates. This unprecedented rise has put an increased strain on the legal system to respond to bankruptcy claims. This is the first piece of legislation that addresses the judicial problems caused by the economic turmoil of the past two years.

The U.S. Judicial Conference, whose membership includes the Chief Justice, provided the basis for this legislation which will create 13 new judgeships and make 22 currently temporary judgeships permanent. The bill will pay for these new appointments by increasing the cost for corporate bankruptcy.

The passing of H.R. 4506 would relieve considerable strain on the nation's bankruptcy courts through matching the increased workload with an expanded judiciary. American law exists to encourage economic growth and facilitate new business. The ability for the law to respond effectively and fairly is paramount to the turnaround of the country's economy.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,575,479,490,348.47.

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

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,937,053,744,054.67 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING WASHINGTON STATE
REPRESENTATIVE SHARON
TOMIKO SANTOS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Washington State Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos for receiving the 2010 Desjardin Financial Literacy Award.

The Desjardin Financial Literacy Award, given by the Credit Union National Association, annually recognizes one State lawmaker for their exemplary leadership and legislative efforts in the field of youth financial education.

Financial literacy is a crucial skill for all to have in today's society, from balancing a checkbook to budgeting for retirement. This skill allows us to make wise decisions about our finances and our financial future. The earlier that our youth attain this knowledge, the more successful and prepared they are later in life.

In Washington State, financial literacy training supports the goals of Washington's Basic Education Act. This Act seeks to provide students with the skills necessary to "understand the importance of work and finance and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities."

Washington State Representative Santos has exemplified the effort to provide financial literacy opportunities for our youth statewide since being elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 1998. Representative Santos led the campaign to establish the Financial Education Public Private Partnership (previously the Financial Literacy Public Private Partnership) in 2003, as well as to secure public funding for the project.

The Partnership works to increase students' financial education, provide financial education information for school districts, and provides financial education instructional materials. Additionally, the Partnership has grown because of Representative Santos' enduring support and her legislative work throughout the years.

The work of Representative Santos stands as a model for all States in the effort to promote fiscal responsibility and literacy. I commend her for her efforts and congratulate her again on this tremendous achievement.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF
KOREAN AMERICANS

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1036, recognizing the contributions of Korean Americans to the United States. I am pleased to cosponsor this resolution, introduced by my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. GARRETT. For over a century, the

United States has prospered from the many contributions of Korean Americans to our society. Korean immigrants first arrived in Hawaii, but they quickly moved from the West Coast across the continent, establishing vibrant, productive communities across the Nation, including in my home State of New Jersey.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with a small group of Korean Americans from my congressional district, as I frequently do, to hear their thoughts and learn about their needs. It impresses me that Korean Americans have clear interest in fully utilizing the intellectual capital and entrepreneurial spirit prevalent in their community to invest in the

future of Korean American youth and, for example, to contribute to the fields of science and technology—particularly green technology. It is the kind of future-oriented perspective that has distinguished the Korean American community and contributed to their accomplishments in the arts, sciences, government, education, sports, and so much more. I am confident that the Korean American community will continue to flourish and enhance the character of our Nation, and I look forward to future opportunities to support the goals of Korean Americans in New Jersey's 12th congressional district.