

Madam Speaker, just a year ago, the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act (NAREAA) was signed into law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 or Public Law 111–84. In essence, COLA would be phased out and locality pay would be phased in over 3 years for all current and future Federal employees, regardless of whether or not they received COLA payments.

Before last year, American Samoa was the only non-foreign area in which Federal employees did not receive COLA. Notwithstanding that by law, Federal employees in the U.S. Territory of American Samoa were eligible to receive COLA payments, OPM decided not to create a separate non-foreign COLA-designated area for American Samoa.

This was especially frustrating given that American Samoa faces many of the same issues, driving higher prices for goods, services, and travel that face other territories in similar situations, and its seemed discriminatory that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has chosen not to provide COLA to Federal employees in American Samoa.

These were the concerns that I continued to raise with OPM over the years but to no avail until last year and I want to thank my good friend from Hawaii, Senator DANIEL AKAKA for his leadership and efforts on this issue. As a result of NAREAA, GS and white-collar Federal employees in American Samoa are now receiving locality-pay.

Madam Speaker, the enactment of Public Law 111–84 has made more glaring the discrepancy that continue to exist for USPS workers in American Samoa that were not receiving territorial cost of living adjustments (TCOLA) rates.

Only Postal Inspectors and employees of the Postal Service Office Inspector General in non-foreign areas are receiving locality pay like other federal employees in the non-foreign areas. The rest of the USPS employees would continue to receive TCOLA payments.

Unfortunately, USPS workers in American Samoa did not receive any adjustments called for under Public Law 111–84 as OPM has never designated American Samoa to receive TCOLA rates. Despite the fact that American Samoa by statute is eligible to receive TCOLA payments, OPM continues to deny American Samoa COLA-designation.

Now that COLA is being phased out and we are now in the 10th pay period since locality pay kicked in and COLA rates have been frozen, it is highly unlikely OPM would ever establish American Samoa as a COLA area because there is not more COLA per se and other GS and white-collar Federal employees in American Samoa are now receiving locality pay.

Therefore, the intent of my amendment is to give the USPS employees in American Samoa the same TCOLA treatment accorded to USPS employees in Guam.

Madam Speaker, as I have been saying throughout all these years, it seems unreasonable that OPM asserts that the cost of living in American Samoa is not high enough to justify payment of COLA when no survey has even been conducted in American Samoa. Especially, American Samoa is about 8,000 miles away from Washington, DC with unique economic challenges and issues.

Madam Speaker, while my amendment was not accepted by the U.S. House Committee on Rules, nevertheless, I will continue to pursue

a solution to this critical issue for the people of American Samoa. the people of American Samoa.

NETWORKS SHOULD HOLD ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the television news networks failed to hold the Obama administration accountable for its response to the Gulf Coast oil spill crisis, according to an analysis by the Media Research Center.

Out of 157 news stories during the 4 weeks after the disaster, 148—95 percent—featured no criticism of the administration whatsoever. Just nine had some scrutiny of the administration.

And just two of the stories—about 1 percent—focused on the administration's handling of the crisis.

The national media gave no such leeway to former President George W. Bush's handling of crises during his administration.

The networks should hold the Obama administration accountable, not give them a free pass.

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH J. HOFFMAN SR., BELOVED GLOUCESTER COUNTY CLERK

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Joseph J. Hoffman Sr. of Franklinville, who died from pancreatic cancer in his home on May 13, 2010 at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Wanda, two sons, and six grandchildren. Mr. Hoffman's life made a lasting mark on the Gloucester County community.

Mr. Hoffman was a graduate of Clayton High School, where he was an avid member of the baseball team. His skills as third baseman for Clayton High School were recognized with his early induction into the Gloucester County Sports Hall of Fame. After high school, he had the opportunity to attend training camp for the Philadelphia Athletics minor league team, but turned it down to work on his family's three farms in Franklinville. He remained involved with community sports, playing for many semi-pro South Jersey baseball teams, and later becoming President of the Franklin Township Babe Ruth League.

After nine years as Township Clerk for Franklin Township, he was elected Gloucester County clerk in 1962. Mr. Hoffman served for a record forty-four years as Gloucester County Clerk. He was then successfully re-elected for seven consecutive five year terms, ending with his retirement in 1997. Not only was Mr. Hoffman involved with the local government, he also served 43 years on the board of Newfield National Bank, volunteered with the

Franklinville Fire Department, and served as General Chairman of fundraising for Underwood Memorial Hospital in Woodbury. In 1995, his achievements were recognized by the Boy Scouts of America when he received the Southern New Jersey Council Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizens Award. He also was rewarded the Public Service Award by the NAACP.

Madam Speaker, Joseph J. Hoffman Sr.'s commitment to Gloucester County and its citizens should not go unrecognized. I express my deepest condolences to his family for their loss and pay tribute to the memory of this outstanding individual.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF GARY S. ADAMS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gary S. Adams as he is named by the Cleveland-Marshall Law School Association a 2010 Alumnus of the Year in recognition of his continued entrepreneurship, hard work and business achievement.

Mr. Adams grew up in the Cleveland area. As a graduate of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, he has consistently utilized his legal expertise to help support, promote and grow the auto industry throughout Greater Cleveland. In addition, he has maintained a special focus on locally owned dealerships, employees and customers.

For many years, Mr. Adams served as the President of the Greater Cleveland Auto Dealerships' Association and is now the President of the annual Cleveland Auto Show which draws tens of thousands of visitors every year. Mr. Adams is an expert in his field. He has an unparalleled knowledge of many aspects of the auto industry, including government policy, public relations and consumer rights. Moreover, Mr. Adams is known as man whose kindness, integrity and generosity match his competitive spirit.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of Gary S. Adams upon being named as a 2010 Alumnus of the Year by his alma mater, the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Adams' leadership, expertise, integrity and dedication to supporting the economic base of our community have made it a better place to live.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes: