

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JIM MULDOON

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of my good friend James (Jim) Muldoon for his commitment, leadership, and achievements in the field of recreational boating and boating safety. I would like to express my appreciation for his dedication to making sailing accessible for everyone, regardless of economic status and physical or intellectual ability.

Mr. Muldoon grew up in Gary, Indiana and didn't learn how to sail until he finished his Air Force service and graduated from the University of Maryland. Since then, Muldoon has been an advocate of community sailing programs at the grassroots level, especially in the areas of youth sailing, training, and safety. He has long been actively involved in international sailing and boating-related organizations. He has captained his own 73-foot yacht, DONNYBROOK, with a highly competitive amateur team in hundreds of races and has accrued over 75,000 miles of ocean racing.

In August, more than two dozen, sailing and boating-related organizations assembled to honor Mr. Muldoon for his lifelong contributions to boating safety. During the ceremony, Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland, awarded Mr. Muldoon with the Chesapeake Bay Ambassador Award. Peter Franchot, Comptroller of the State of Maryland also presented Mr. Muldoon with a Certificate of Recognition for his outstanding contributions to the State. Organizations paying tribute to Mr. Muldoon included the U.S. Coast Guard, Special Olympics of Maryland, American Red Cross, Annapolis Community Boating, Annapolis Community Foundation, Annapolis Sailing School, Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association, Coast Guard Foundation, Downtown Sailing Center Baltimore, Kidship, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, National Boating Federation, National Boating Safety Advisory Council, National Maritime Heritage Foundation, National Safe Boating Council, National Sailing Hall of Fame, National Water Safety Congress, Sailing Center Chesapeake, Shearwater Sailing Club, Spirit of America, United Safe Boating Institute, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, United States Power Squadrons, and United States Sailing Association (US SAILING), join together to honor Mr. Muldoon's contributions to the sailing world.

Shelia Hixson, the chair of the Ways and Means Committee of the Maryland House of Delegates, presided over the ceremony and said, "We have no doubt that Mr. Muldoon will make many more contributions to the recreational boating community in years to come, but we wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done over the past four decades."

In October, US SAILING awarded Mr. Muldoon its most prestigious award, the Na-

thanael G. Herreshoff trophy, for his outstanding contributions to the sport of sailing in the U.S. over many years. Since being founded in 1897, U.S. SAILING has been the national governing body (NGB) for sailing and provides leadership for the sport in the United States. Past winners of the Herreshoff trophy have included Harold Sterling Vanderbilt, Harry C. Melges Jr., Gary Jobson, and Roy E. Disney.

US SAILING has also awarded Mr. Muldoon the Timothea Larr trophy for the outstanding vision and guidance he has provided to the advancement of sailor education in the United States. The president of US SAILING, Gary Jobson, said that Mr. Muldoon "has been and always will be an outstanding asset to US SAILING and the general sailing community."

Mr. Muldoon has held more than 30 leadership positions over the years including the following: chair of the Department of Homeland Security's National Boating Safety Advisory Council, member of the Board of Directors and chair of the Development Committee for the Coast Guard Foundation, founder and president of the Brendan Sailing Training Program for Youth with Learning Differences, founding board member and vice president of the National Sailing Hall of Fame, and president, vice president of the Government Relations Committee, administrative division director, and chairman of the Training Committee for US SAILING.

As chairman of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council for eleven years, Mr. Muldoon has influenced the direction of boating safety and increased the awareness and value of on-the-water skills-based training.

I have the honor of serving with my friend, Jim Muldoon, on the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's College of Maryland. He has been an outstanding Chairman of the Board and continues to contribute his talent, vision and resources to the growth and excellence of Maryland's Honors College. While at St. Mary's, he supported the sailing program and collegiate team. His generosity enabled the school to build its new sailing center which is the training center for St. Mary's 2010 national championship sailing team, as well as, a center with classroom facilities for sailing classes and where any student, faculty or staff member can learn to sail free of charge or use the college boats. St. Mary's sailing coach Adam Werblow said "Thanks to Mr. Muldoon's passion, vision, and drive, [St. Mary's] now has the best sailing center in the country."

Mr. Muldoon also facilitated an agreement between St. Mary's College and National Water Safety Congress where Spirit of America's boating safety courses are taught to middle school students.

Mr. Muldoon founded the Brendan Sail Training Program for Youth with Learning Differences. Through this program, he has been able to make sailors out of a lot of people who wouldn't have otherwise had the opportunity.

He has contributed greatly to the Special Olympics Maryland by initiating training Special Olympians and their coaches to sail large

yachts in addition to small crafts. This year, for the first time, a boat crewed completely by Special Olympians competed in the Governor's Cup Race. Patricia Fegan, president and CEO of Special Olympics Maryland said, "Jim has not only donated his boat for Special Olympics Maryland fundraising auctions but he also came to Special Olympics Maryland with the idea of having Special Olympians sail aboard his boat on major bay races."

He established a National Faculty; while he was chairman of US SAILING's Training Committee, which has become the curriculum and standards development engine for the education and training of students, instructors, coaches, and instructor trainers.

He also was a key player in the development and funding approval of US SAILING's national keelboat training and certification program.

Mr. Muldoon is credited with significantly strengthening US SAILING's partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard. According to Captain Mark Rizzo, chief of the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety for the U.S. Coast Guard, Muldoon is "one of the Coast Guard's most caring and compassionate partners." He assisted with the development of the U.S. Coast Guard's Strategic Plan of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program and most recently he advised the U.S. Coast Guard and its Boating Safety Division that on-the-water skills based training is necessary to increase safety and reduce accidents and fatalities. As a result, more Coast Guard nonprofit grants are being directed toward funding on-the-water programs instead of the previous reliance on classroom only courses and publication of safety brochures.

He currently resides in Washington, DC, with his wife Linda. They have one son, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

I commend Jim Muldoon for his commitment to the sailing and boating safety community. As evidenced, Jim Muldoon has made tremendous contributions to the boating community and it is an honor to represent someone who has been such a prominent figure in the area of community sailing education throughout the past four decades and will continue to make many more contributions in years to come.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of concurring in a Senate amendment to H.R. 2965 with an amendment that is known as the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010. I commend Congressman MURPHY and Leader HOYER for their efforts on this legislation, and applaud Speaker PELOSI for bringing it to the floor.

• 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.

The “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy has been ill-conceived policy from the start—it is discriminatory on its face, and harmful to the gay and lesbian uniformed servicemembers that are forced to keep their sexual orientation from their friends, their coworkers, and their superior officers. Further, these military members are currently subject to discharge from the military if it is uncovered that they have participated in any activity that may be perceived to be associated with homosexuality.

Put simply, any policy that would go this far to discriminate against a particular group is just wrong. To date, thousands of brave servicemembers—including individuals who have risked their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq—have been discharged simply because of their sexual orientation.

In recent months, members of Congress have researched this issue in-depth—a Department of Defense survey was requested, and both the House and the Senate have held hearings on the issue. In a Senate Armed Service Committee hearing in February of this year, Defense Secretary Gates, and Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke out against the policy. Secretary Gates has remained steadfast in urging that Congress act to repeal this policy in an orderly manner.

Further evidence supporting repeal came on November 30th, when the results of a Department of Defense survey on “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” were released. The study showed that 70 percent—an overwhelming majority—of servicemembers believe that a repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell would be positive, mixed, or of no consequence.

Because Congress has been slow to act on this matter, the courts have become involved, and now stand to potentially declare “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” unconstitutional if we do not act. Secretary Gates has warned that judicial repeal will put an administrative burden on the Department of Defense, and has asserted that Congressional action is most favorable.

I believe that the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy poses an unnecessary threat to our national security and that the time has come for this policy to end.

I urge my fellow members of Congress to join me to repeal this harmful and discriminatory policy.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in somewhat reluctant support of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act. I am supporting this bill because of the tremendous good it will do for

middle class families in my district and throughout the country.

This bill extends emergency unemployment benefits for 400,000 Californians whose benefits have expired. Not only do these benefits help working families pay the bills and put food on their tables, they also stimulate economic growth, creating \$1.63 in economic demand for every dollar in benefits.

This bill also extends dozens of tax incentives that benefit middle class families like the college tuition deduction, child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, and the enhanced earned income tax credit. It helps small businesses expand and hire more workers by extending the R&D tax credit, zero percent capital gains tax on long term small business investments, and bonus depreciation for capital investments.

And it also invests in a clean, renewable energy future by extending tax incentives for renewable fuels, energy-efficient appliances and home construction, and the successful Treasury Department grant program for renewable energy projects. These extensions will help local green businesses in my district like Clipper Wind, REC Solar, and CREE Lighting create quality green jobs that can’t be shipped overseas. And it will stimulate our economy by expanding our use of cleaner, safer forms of energy.

The bottom line is this bill will create jobs and spur economic growth, and these are provisions that I strongly support. However, this bill also continues to tilt our tax code in favor of the wealthiest three percent of our society. And I oppose those provisions in the strongest of terms.

I support the permanent extension of current tax rates on income up to \$250,000 and, in fact, representing an area with such a high cost of living, I would probably support extending that limit up to \$500,000. But, Mr. Chair, I do not see why we should extend the reduced tax rates for incomes in excess of that.

This proposal to extend the reduced tax rates that only go to millionaires and billionaires will cost taxpayers over \$80 billion, simply adding to our deficit. To add insult to injury, this tax cut extension for the super-rich lasts for two years while emergency unemployment benefits last for only 13 months. And, Mr. Chair, according to virtually all economists these extensions will do virtually nothing to stimulate economic growth.

Adding to the giveaways, Republicans insisted on “fixing” the estate tax to ensure that only 0.14 percent of estates are subject to the tax, adding another \$68 billion to the deficit. I agree that the estate tax needs to be fixed, but this is not the solution. At a time when middle class families continue to struggle, continuing tax cuts that only go to millionaires and billionaires is irresponsible, wasteful and bad economics. These tax cuts for the super wealthy will add nearly \$140 billion to the deficit in just two years.

I am also very concerned that this bill includes a temporary two percent reduction in payroll taxes for all employees and self-employed individuals. While I strongly support additional tax relief to Middle Class families—which this achieves—the payroll tax reduction puts the Social Security Trust Fund at risk of losing its independent revenue stream. I believe we should extend the Making Work Pay Tax Credit, which gave targeted tax relief to those that needed it most without endangering the financial security of Social Security.

Finally, the bill before us needlessly extends the excessive ethanol tax subsidy of 46 cents per gallon. Thanks in part to this harmful subsidy, the U.S. will divert nearly 40 percent of the domestic corn crop from food and feed to fuel this year, which will only exacerbate the growing problem of increasingly volatile and high commodity prices. Lowering this subsidy by just 10 cents per gallon would help reduce these harmful side effects, and save taxpayers roughly \$1 billion next year.

Mr. Chair, I am very disappointed that this important legislation to prevent a tax increase on everyday Americans has been loaded down with so many unnecessary and wasteful provisions. But I’m supporting this bill because the needs of middle class families and small businesses—the backbone of our economy—are too important to be left to die in the hands of Republican leadership next Congress.

This bill is a compromise. It’s not the compromise I would have written. But it’s the compromise that will get desperately needed help to the families that need it most. Time has run out and we must act now for the good of the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Thursday, December 16, 2010, I missed one recorded vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 646.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND CAREER OF LARRY KING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the contributions of television and radio host Larry King. Over the course of his forty-three-year career, Mr. King has brought learning, laughter and inspiration to millions of Americans with his nonsense reporting.

Mr. King was not born into fame or fortune. The son of a bar owner and a seamstress, he and his younger brother grew up relying on public assistance after the untimely death of their father. After his graduation from high school, Mr. King’s dreams of working as a radio broadcaster took him from New York to Miami, where he found a job performing administrative tasks for a local radio station. Soon he had his own small show, which grew quickly in popularity and opened the door to bigger opportunities. In the following years, Mr. King has published a column for USA Today, hosted his own show on CNN, released a widely read autobiography and appeared in several blockbuster movies including Shrek 2 and Ghostbusters. He has received countless honors, including an Emmy Award, two Peabody Awards and ten Cable ACE Awards.

Mr. King does not present himself as a humanitarian, but he has contributed millions of

dollars to charity through his fundraising efforts and his personal donations. He played a crucial role in securing support for victims after natural disasters devastated New Orleans and Haiti. He established the Larry King Cardiac Foundation in an effort to eradicate the illness that claimed his father's life and seriously threatened his own. Mr. King also sits on the board of the Police Athletic League of New York City, a nonprofit organization serving disadvantaged children and youth, and has established a scholarship program at George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring Larry King for his remarkable contributions to American culture. His life is a testament to the power of hard work and big dreams.

HONORING NORMAN YOSHIO
MINETA

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1377, which honors the accomplishments of Norman Y. Mineta. Known to us as Norm, Mr. Mineta has played an important role in our nation's history: completing many firsts; and helping the pave the path for many more to follow.

A distinguished serviceman, he joined the United States Army as a young man, and completed tours of duty as an intelligence officer in both Japan and Korea.

Norm served our great state as a Member of this body from 1975 to 1995, working tirelessly to improve the lives of California families. With his support, and that of my late husband Bob Matsui, Congress established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Moreover, they were instrumental in passing H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which served as the official apology for sending families of Japanese descent to internment camps and redressed the injustices endured by Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Norm also served as Chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, authored the landmark Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, and founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC.

His lists of 'firsts' include being the first Asian American mayor of a major United States city when he became mayor of San Jose in 1971, and he was the first Asian American in a Presidential Cabinet. As many of us remember, Norm also served as a Secretary of Commerce under President Bill Clinton, and as a Secretary of Transportation under President George W. Bush.

Mr. Speaker, Norm Mineta has had a long and respected career in public service. As the resolution before us states, the House of Representatives honors the accomplishments and legacy of Norman Yoshio Mineta, for his groundbreaking contributions to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and to our Nation as a whole through his leadership in strengthening civil rights and liberty for all and for his dedication and service.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 1377.

HONORING THE STAGLIN FAMILY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Staglin family for their ongoing and unparalleled efforts to improve the lives of the hundreds of millions of individuals across the world living with mental illness. Garen, Shari, Brandon, and Shannon Staglin have made the fight against mental illness their collective mission and have approached the awesome challenge of combating these difficult disorders with a strong and organized effort that is at once inspirational and transformative.

In 16 years, the Staglin's non-profit International Mental Health Research Organization, IMHRO, and the Staglin Music Festival for Mental Health have raised over \$116 million for mental health research. The mission of IMHRO is to alleviate human suffering from mental illness by funding scientific research into the causes, prevention and new treatments of mental disorders. IMHRO produces, supports and builds awareness for fundraising events to raise money for mental health research, directs funding to the most promising research by soliciting and selecting proposals for prevention, treatment and cure of mental disorders, collaborates with affiliate organizations, people and events worldwide to raise and direct funding and minimize duplication of scientific effort, and works to build awareness of scientific achievements and possibilities. Recently, the Staglins have taken the lead in the organization of the Next Frontier Initiative to design and implement a 10-year collaborative neuroscience research effort for the benefit of soldiers and veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD.

The efforts of the Staglin family have changed the landscape of how the country approaches mental illness, and are illustrative of the ability of a few dedicated people to truly change the world.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 841, the Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act of 2010, and I commend Senator ROCKEFELLER, Congressman ED TOWNS and Congressman CLIFF STEARNS for their leadership on the safety of blind Americans, cyclists, runners, small children, and other pedestrians.

This bill will protect the blind community from the risks posed by silent vehicles. For the blind and many others who experience physical disabilities, the biggest challenge is not the loss of their sight, but the misunderstanding and the lack of simple accommoda-

tions that make life more manageable for independent individuals.

This is especially the case with fast growing technologies that increasingly define the 21st century. We have new cars on the road and, more importantly, an increasing number of hybrid and electric vehicles being sold and manufactured in the United States.

However, with these advances we need to ensure that new technologies also reflect the safety concerns of all stakeholders on the roads—drivers and pedestrians alike.

I am pleased that this bill addresses the critical safety concerns of disabled persons, while also encouraging better technology and economic growth.

S. 841, the Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act, is good for our community. It is good for pedestrians and it is good for industry.

I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

LOESER'S DELI 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand today to commemorate a Bronx institution—Loeser's Deli—which will be celebrating its 50th year in business on January 8, 2011. Fredy Loeser opened the business in 1961 with his father, Ernest, and has spent the last five decades standing behind the counter serving the people of the Bronx. Time has passed and people have come and gone, but Fredy Loeser and Loeser's Deli have stayed right in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx, making some of the best New York deli one can ever have.

To thank his customers, Fredy will be turning back the clock on his anniversary and will be pricing his food as if it was 1961. I dare anyone in this House to find a better hot dog for 50 cents anywhere in the country!

In this day and age, where businesses come and go and when far too many people are struggling to keep their heads above water, it is a pleasure to honor a man who has worked hard for 50 years, keeping a small business afloat and thriving. Fredy has worked many long hours in these last few decades and he continues to work those hours today.

I want to thank him for his hard work and for being a pillar of our Bronx community all these years. I want to wish the best to his family—his wife Elayne, his children (Pamela Loeser-Halpern and her husband Michael, Lisa Loeser-Weiss and her husband Gary, Brett Loeser and his wife Alene, and Scott Loeser and his wife Bonnie), and his 12 grandchildren (Julia, Jesse, Lexa, Emily, Andrew, Gregory, Zachary, Samantha, Abigail, Danielle, Drew and Rachel). The success Fredy has enjoyed not only consists of corned beef and pastrami, but it is reflected in the wonderful family he has raised over the years.

I know I am looking forward to my next sandwich from Loeser's and I hope to be enjoying them for many more years to come.

THE PASSING OF JUDGE SAMUEL
PAILTHORPE KING, UNITED
STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Judge Samuel P. King of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii. Judge King passed away on December 7, 2010, at the age of 94. His deep love for Hawaii was evident in his rulings and in the way he carried himself throughout his life.

Samuel Pailthorpe King was born on April 13, 1916, in Hankow, China, to Samuel Wilder King and Pauline Nawahineokalai Evans. The elder King would later serve in the United States House of Representatives as a delegate from the Territory of Hawaii (1935–1943) and as Territorial Governor of Hawaii (1953–1957).

Samuel P. King was a graduate of Punahou School in Honolulu. He also attended Yale University, where he received a B.S. in 1937 and Yale Law School, where he graduated with an LL.B. in 1940. During World War II, King joined the United States Navy and served as a Japanese language translator from 1942 to 1946. He continued his service in the Naval Reserve from 1946 to 1967.

King began to practice law in Honolulu in 1946. In 1956, he became a district magistrate for the City and County of Honolulu. Hawaii Governor William F. Quinn appointed King to a judgeship in the First Circuit Court where he served from 1961 to 1970. In 1966, King joined Judge Gerald R. Corbett in founding Hawaii's Family Court system. In 1970, King resigned as a judge and ran as a Republican for Governor of Hawaii. After losing to incumbent Governor John A. Burns, King returned to private law practice.

On May 22, 1972, President Richard M. Nixon nominated King to the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii. King was confirmed by the United States Senate on June 28, 1972. He began serving as chief judge in 1974. After 10 years as chief judge, King assumed senior status.

With nearly five decades on the bench, Judge Samuel P. King has left a legal legacy that includes decisions ranging from upholding Hawaii's land reform law to halting construction of the H-3 freeway to protecting the rights of the mentally ill.

Judge King was one of five co-authors of the "Broken Trust" essay published in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin in 1997. That essay, written by prominent members of the Native Hawaiian community, was instrumental in bringing change to the leadership and conduct of the Bishop Estate trust that was established to promote the education and wellbeing of Native Hawaiian children. In a 1998 interview, Judge King said, "I know one thing. Every judge has an obligation: If you see something wrong in the community, you speak out against it." With Broken Trust, Judge King did just that.

According to those closest to him, Judge King was particularly proud of his decision protecting the endangered Palila, a 6-inch finch-billed member of the Hawaiian honeycreeper family.

In 1979, Judge King ruled that the State of Hawaii had to protect the bird by eliminating wild goats and sheep from the Palila's only natural habitat on the slopes of Mauna Kea on the island of Hawaii. He ruled that the Palila had standing in the federal court system, and he monitored the bird's welfare for the rest of his life.

Earlier this year, I introduced a bill that would expand the forest habitat of native birds found nowhere else but in the State of Hawaii. The Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act (H.R. 5380) will help preserve Hawaii's unique animals and plants. As the Member of Congress representing one of the most beautiful and ecologically important places in our world, like Judge King, I believe species conservation is a part of my obligation to Hawaii.

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Judge King's wife of 66 years, Anne Van Patten Grilk King; his son, Samuel, Jr.; his daughters, Louise King Lanzilotti and Charlotte King Stretch; and his six grandchildren.

Maaloa nui loa (thank you very much).

**DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL
ACT OF 2010**

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

Once again, the House of Representatives has acted to lift the ban on gay and lesbian Americans serving openly in the military by passing H.R. 2965, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010", by a vote of 250–175. Earlier this year, the House also passed national defense authorization along with a repeal provision. I applaud Majority Leader HOYER and Congressman MURPHY for their leadership in this effort.

Strong leadership has been, and remains, the key to successfully repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell and replacing it with a policy of inclusion and non-discrimination. It is now up to the Senate to seal the deal. I urge the Senate in the strongest possible terms to act as soon as possible to pass the legislation necessary to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell before the end of the year.

I stand with President Obama, Defense Secretary Gates, Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the majority of servicemembers and Americans on this matter. It is clear from the Pentagon's recently concluded study that the 1993 Don't Ask, Don't Tell law runs counter to the values that our Armed Forces embody and, indeed, our brave men and women in uniform.

Furthermore, it dispels the argument that Don't Ask, Don't Tell repeal would harm military readiness and unit cohesion. In fact, approximately 70 percent of servicemembers, including their families, support open service by gay and lesbian Americans and that Don't Ask, Don't Tell repeal would have no negative effects on their units' ability to "work together to get the job done."

There is no doubt in my mind that the Pentagon will be able to move forward with repeal

in a manner that ensures our military's readiness and our national security while meeting the needs of our servicemembers and their families.

Despite everything that has already been said, however, there are those who will vote to preserve Don't Ask, Don't Tell. I can think of only one reason why anyone would vote to condone such a farce of a policy rather than support our troops, and that, Mr. Speaker, is prejudice.

At this moment, we stand closer to repeal than ever before. I could go on and reiterate all the reasons why we should repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell, but the time for talk is over. After 17 years of discussion, the only thing left remaining to do is to repeal it. It is the right thing to do for our troops, the American people, and our nation as a whole.

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
HENRIETTA KING**

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor and remembrance of Henrietta King, a devoted mother, wife and friend. Henrietta dedicated her life to cultivating potential in others, whether that meant teaching her children to work the family farm or supporting her husband in his extraordinary career.

Henrietta, or "Henri" as her loved ones knew her, married future boxing promoter Don King in her thirties. The couple's early years in Cleveland, Ohio were a far cry from the life they would build for themselves in years to come. Henrietta stayed by Don's side through his struggles, helping him to become the promoting sensation that he is today. Friends also knew her for her lighthearted side. She had a penchant for gardening, decorating, and collecting extravagant shoes.

Even in times of prosperity, the couple did not forget those who were less fortunate. They were generous but soft spoken philanthropists, donating, among other things, fire engines to a local fire department and to New York City after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Henrietta King. I offer my condolences to her husband Donald; her children Deborah, Carl, and Eric; her niece Jean King-Battle; her five grandchildren; and her many friends and extended family members. She will always be remembered for her steadfast and nurturing spirit.

**RECOGNIZING THE ACADIANA
HIGH SCHOOL RAMS FOOTBALL
TEAM ON WINNING THE LOUISIANA
5A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Acadiana High School Wreckin' Rams football team of Lafayette, Louisiana, for winning their second 5A State

Championship. With their win at the Superdome in New Orleans on December 11, 2010, the team joins the level of elite high school football teams in the State. Their win is a source of pride for the students, faculty, and alumni of Acadiana High School, as well as of the people of Lafayette.

This year's squad overcame many hardships this season on their way to the Superdome. The strength, tenacity and determination of the players and coaches to overcome adversity proves that they indeed deserve to be called "champions."

After compiling a 6–4 record in the regular season, the Rams cruised through the playoffs, recording big wins on their drive to New Orleans. The team defeated some of the strongest programs from across Louisiana: East St. John by a score of 56–6; Zachary, 49–7; St. Paul, 41–20; and St. Thomas More in the State semifinals by a score of 31–0.

In the State championship game, the Rams played one of the top teams in the State, the West Monroe Rebels, a team which had won 29 straight games and was the defending State champion. In one of the best high school games of the year, the Rams played their hearts out and emerged victorious with a 21–14 victory over the Rebels.

This team represents the strength, determination, and resilience of the people of Acadiana. I want to commend head coach Ted Davidson for his leadership through the highs and lows of this season, and applaud him and his fellow coaches for keeping the team focused and determined to achieve their goal of a State championship.

Very few teams have won more than one State championship in the history of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, and with this team's win this year, Acadiana High School joins those select few Louisiana high school football programs. For overcoming adversity early in the season and delivering resounding wins throughout the post season, I congratulate the 2010 Acadiana High School Wreckin' Rams football team for their victory in the 5A State Championship.

IN MEMORY OF TIM RUSSERT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, throughout my time in Congress it has been my privilege to meet many of the people involved in running this great institution. Albert Caswell, who works with the Capitol Visitor's Center to give tours for the Wounded Warriors and Make a Wish organizations, is one of those people.

I rise today to ask that a poem written by Mr. Caswell, honoring one of Buffalo's greatest sons, Tim Russert, be added to the official record.

RUSSERT

All on the canvass of our lives . . .
What, are of our gifts as realized?
That we so paint all in our lives . . .
That, which so shows all of us while in our times . . .
As when we are gone, that which so surely shines!
Russ . . . Art . . . A Man of Faith, Who Thou Art!
A Thing of Beauty!

A Truly Great Man. Full of Heart!
A Fine . . . Fine . . . Fine Kind Work of Art!
All in what you have painted, Tim . . .
All in your life's part . . .
Oh yes, in your lifetime Tim . . . you so stood apart!
From all the rest!
First and foremost, it was your love of family, playing The Greatest Part!
Whether, it was Big Russ . . . Like . . . or that lovely wife Maureen . . .
As you so showed us all, life's greatest theme . . .
As your life's Mission, as such . . .
All in your life's ministry, all in your decisions as bestowed upon us . . .
To drink from that cup of life, not sip . . . or think twice . . .
To live each new day full, and on your way and burn bright!
A Man, from humble means . . .
Who, never forgot from where he had come, who inspired all . . . this one!
But to live, That Great American Dream . . .
As through your choices, and your most warm inner voices . . .
Where character, faith, and hard work so convened!
A poster child, with that warm smile . . .
As all the while, of what America really means!
As all in your life was seen . . .
God, Faith, Family, and our Country 'Tis of Thee . . .
As you wore them all upon your sleeve . . .
When, we Met The Press . . .
In Your Search For the Truth . . .
All in you Tim, we so met the very best!
For in your short, but great lifetime . . .
This your nation, you would bless!
For politics was your life . . .
And now, You and Murrow . . . share the same light!
And in this your world of gotcha . . .
No man of honor, has ever burned more bright!
Because, all our leaders knew there be a fight . . .
But, it would be an honest and fair . . . what was right!
For it was your Great Love of Life . . .
Go Buffalo! Go Bills!
That cries out to all of us this sad night!
To remind us, in what we saw . . . To carry a smile!
To love God, Country, Work and Family . . . with all your might!
To Be The Best, in all you do!
To go for it!
To help your friends, to be true!
And that was but Tim, that was but you!
To have a heart of a child, to ever carry it and wear a warm smile!
All in your life's quests, as viewed . . . A Missionary Man . . .
Who's Life of Faith,
painted a masterpiece far out across this great land to view!
A Mission, that our Lord had put you upon this earth to do!

IN PRAISE OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE MEETING HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO, CA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, from December 3 to 5, a delegation of Members of the House met with a delegation of Members of the European Parliament for the 69th session

of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue. The TLD is the principal inter-parliamentary organization to foster discussion between U.S. and European Union legislators. Following my remarks is the Joint Statement issued by the TLD chairs and vice-chairs summarizing the results of this meeting.

A highlight of this meeting was the participation by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, His Excellency Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who gave an enlightening presentation on current issues in Pakistan and the South Asia region. His remarks stimulated a lively discussion.

For the past four years, the TLD Congressional delegation has been ably chaired by our colleague, the gentlelady from Nevada, Ms. SHELLEY BERKLEY. Indeed, she has been the driving force in making the TLD an effective mechanism to strengthen the working relationship between the Congress and the European Parliament. In recognition of her energetic commitment to trans-Atlantic diplomacy, the participants honored her at this meeting. As Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, I join them in commending Ms. BERKLEY for her outstanding leadership of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue.

TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE, FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, JOINT STATEMENT

Shelley Berkley, Chairwoman, United States Congress Delegation

Cliff Stearns, Vice Chairman, United States Congress Delegation

Jim Costa, Vice Chairman, United States Congress Delegation

Elmar Brok, MEP, Chairman, European Parliament Delegation

Sarah Ludford, MEP, Vice Chairwoman, European Parliament Delegation

Niki Tzavela, MEP, Vice Chairwoman, European Parliament Delegation

We, the Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 69th Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in San Francisco, California, from 3–5 December 2010.

Building on the joint statement issued following our last meeting in Madrid on 3–6 June 2010 we reasserted the importance of regular dialogue on political, social, security, economic and environmental challenges that affect all of our citizens. We agreed to report back to our parent bodies on the content and outcome of our discussions in San Francisco, in particular in the areas where joint efforts are likely to produce positive outcomes.

We discussed issues ranging from the global financial situation and trade, to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and climate change. We were briefed on data sharing and privacy issues by Mary Ellen Callahan from the Department of Homeland Security and met with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, His Excellency Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

Our delegations noted that the U.S. and EU must be aware of long-term trends and challenges including the economical and political rise of Asia, cooperation with Latin America, and seek answers to issues like climate change and cybersecurity. In this context, we discussed inviting a NATO representative to the next TLD meeting.

The European Parliament Delegation expressed its gratitude to the U.S. for its vote in support of a strengthened EU presence in the United Nations General Assembly.

We noted the statement by the leaders of the U.S. and the EU giving a central role to

the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), and outlining “the potential of transatlantic commerce to boost our growth and generate jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.” We support the joint efforts to “promote innovation, streamline regulation, and eliminate non-tariff barriers to trade and investment, bringing benefits to business, workers, and consumers in both markets.” The reducing of non tariff barriers and the streamlining of regulations were agreed as priorities when the TEC was established. We call on the TEC leaders once again to reach out directly to Congress and the European Parliament.

The October 14 2010 European Parliament Delegation ‘Brief on EU-US trade and economic cooperation’ was well received and we look forward to further proposals to improve the Transatlantic market. In this respect we also discussed the need for us as legislators to take a more active role to reduce non-tariff barriers to trans-Atlantic trade, including working with executive agencies on a few specific projects, for instance as regards product testing procedures of automobiles and emerging products through advances in nanotechnology.

We discussed ways to further enhance our dialogue and deepen transatlantic ties, even in times of economic constraints and respecting the need for cost effectiveness, including:

- expanding contacts among staff of our institutions,
- inviting EU and U.S. officials to provide perspectives on strategic issues related to financial recovery and economic growth,
- expanding interaction between the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament, including through video-conferencing,
- promoting closer contacts between the Members responsible for specific legislative issues, in particular on a committee to committee basis,
- the possibility of joint hearings and the issuance of joint statements.

In conclusion, we reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening the transatlantic relationship and working in partnership to solve common challenges. We pledged to continue improving the effectiveness of our dialogue in order to realise the full potential of our interparliamentary relationship, as well as to ensure the relevance of the TLD’s work to the European Parliament and the United States Congress.

COMMENDING THE MORROW-STEVENS FOUNDATION ON 10 YEARS OF OPERATIONS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Geraldine and Alan Graham on the 10th anniversary of operations of the Morrow-Stevens Foundation, a non-profit organization they created to provide college scholarships to needy students. Recognizing the importance of education, and the significant challenge that financial hardships often pose to otherwise dedicated students, Geraldine and Alan incorporated the Foundation in 1999 and began awarding scholarships the following year. The Foundation’s scholarships are all-encompassing, providing full tuition, room and board, and book stipends for four years of post-secondary education. Long-time residents of Virginia, Geraldine and Alan set up the Morrow-

Stevens Foundation Scholarship to be available to deserving students in two of the lowest-income counties in the Commonwealth. To date, the Foundation has awarded eight scholarships and has had five graduates. Its ongoing operation will continue to enable additional deserving, but underprivileged students the opportunity for education and a greater ability to shape their futures.

Madam Speaker, ensuring a quality education for our children is one of our most important responsibilities, and I urge my colleagues to commend Geraldine and Alan Graham and the Morrow-Stevens Foundation for their selfless work in furtherance of that goal and wish them continued success in their noble efforts.

HONORING DR. STEVEN E. HYMAN

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Steven E. Hyman for his service to the academic, scientific, and cultural life of the United States. As Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) from 1996–2001, Dr. Hyman was instrumental in transforming the way the nation understands, treats, and responds to mental illness. Under Dr. Hyman’s leadership, the NIMH became a world leader in genetic, biological, and neuroscientific research to improve the lives of the tens of millions of Americans living with mental illness. Since 2001, Dr. Hyman has served as Provost of Harvard University, where his innovative leadership helped usher America’s oldest university into the new millennium with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary and collaborative research. Additionally, Dr. Hyman’s role in strengthening the museums, libraries, and cultural institutions of Harvard University has strengthened the rich cultural life of the United States as a whole.

Dr. Hyman is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He has received awards for public service from the U.S. Government and from patient advocacy groups such as the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and the National Mental Health Association. Across the country and over the world, he has lectured on topics ranging from genes, brain, and behavior to the stigma of mental illness. Dr. Hyman is a member of the Society for Neuroscience, the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and the American College of Psychiatrists. He has served on scientific advisory boards nationally and internationally including the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Riken Brain Sciences Institute in Japan, and the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in Germany. He is currently Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Next Frontier Initiative, a new endeavor to design and implement a 10-year collaborative neuroscience research effort for the benefit of soldiers and veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD.

As Dr. Hyman prepares to transition from his position as Provost of Harvard University, we honor his legacy as a national leader in science and academia and look forward to his continued contributions to American life.

HONORING NORMAN YOSHIO MINETA

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution honoring my dear friend and former colleague, Congressman Norman Mineta, the founder of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

After attending the University of California, Berkeley in my district, Congressman Mineta served as an intelligence officer in Korea and Japan.

He was the first minority and Asian American city council member in San Jose, and was elected the first Asian American mayor of a major U.S. city.

As a child, Congressman Mineta and his family suffered great loss when they were sent to an internment camp after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Upon his election to Congress, he worked tirelessly to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which officially apologized to and compensated Japanese families for their discriminatory and immoral internment.

I had the privilege to work with Norm while serving Mayor of Oakland, then Congressman Ron Dellums’ staff. I vividly remember sitting next to him on a flight from Washington, DC to San Francisco. During that flight, he told me his remarkable life story, which established our long term friendship. As a staffer, he treated me with respect, and I am proud to call him my friend.

After his long career in Congress, Congressman Mineta became the first Asian American Cabinet member, first as Secretary of Commerce under President William J. Clinton and then as Secretary of Transportation under President George W. Bush.

I wholeheartedly support this resolution honoring the accomplishments of an outstanding and inspiring public servant, colleague, trailblazer, and friend, Congressman Norman Mineta.

DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL REPEAL ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, on March 2, 2010, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced that the U.S. Department of Defense, DOD, would conduct a thorough review of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy prohibiting openly gay men and women from serving in the military. The review was to examine the impact that repeal of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy would have on military readiness and effectiveness, unit cohesion, recruiting, retention, and family readiness.

The review solicited feedback from more than 500,000 active duty and reserve component Service members and spouses, with more than 200,000 responses ultimately being received. The Working Group that conducted

the review was composed of 49 military personnel, officer and enlisted, and 19 civilian personnel from across the Department of Defense and the Military Services. The Group was Co-Chaired by General Carter F. Ham, U.S. Army, and the Honorable Jeb C. Johnson, Department of Defense General Counsel.

In May of this year, while DOD's review was still underway, the U.S. House of Representatives voted on an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act that would have effectively repealed the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. I voted against this amendment because I felt it was disrespectful to the men and women in uniform and their families for Congress to vote on a repeal of this policy without first considering their vital input.

The Department of Defense's nine-month review of the impact of repealing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was completed last month. The review's findings include an understandably broad range of opinions about the likely impact of said repeal. Ultimately, however, the review concludes that repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy can be implemented in a manner that minimizes the risks associated with military readiness and effectiveness, unit cohesion, recruiting, retention, and family readiness. I agree.

It is important to note that House of Representatives Bill 2965, H.R. 2965, does not repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy immediately. Rather, repeal is made contingent upon the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff certifying to Congress that the Department of Defense has prepared the necessary policies and regulations to implement the repeal in a manner that is "consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention of the Armed Forces." Such a deliberate and orderly implementation of the repeal will be critical to its success and is consistent with the recommendations of the Department of Defense review.

In addition to my consideration of the Department of Defense's review, I received and thoughtfully considered the input of many currently serving military personnel and veterans in the 19th District, as well as numerous other 19th District residents. Similar to the findings of the DOD review, the input I received from my constituents included passionate appeals for and against repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have had the privilege to interact with thousands of our nation's armed service members—here at home and overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and elsewhere. Each of these interactions has been truly inspiring and humbling. Our men and women in uniform, along with their loved ones, are the true heroes of our nation. But for their selfless service, the freedoms that all of us fellow Americans enjoy everyday would not be. Given that these proud Americans have answered the call to serve and stand ready to make the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their fellow citizens, each and every one of them has earned my highest respect and heartfelt gratitude.

In light of the tremendous number of troops that I have interacted with over the last 10 years, it is safe to say that I have visited and thanked a significant number of gay or lesbian soldiers, marines, airmen, sailors, and coast

guardsmen for their courageous and dedicated service in defense of all that is good about our great country. In light of the findings of the Department of Defense review, to oppose a repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy would contradict the respect and gratitude that I feel for all who serve—regardless of their sexual orientation. As such, I support an orderly repeal of the policy along the lines contemplated in the DOD report and contained in H.R. 2965.

In conclusion, I share the sentiments expressed by the co-chairs of the Department of Defense review, General Ham and Mr. Johnson, when they stated: "We are both convinced that our military can do this, even during this time of war. We do not underestimate the challenges in implementing a change in the law, but neither should we underestimate the ability of our extraordinarily dedicated Service men and women to adapt to such change and continue to provide our Nation with the military capability to accomplish any mission."

RECOGNITION FOR RETIRING ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE MICHAEL L. MIDYETT, CHARITON COUNTY, MISSOURI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, to take this opportunity to recognize the Honorable Michael L. Midyett, Associate Judge, Chariton County, Missouri. I would like to thank him for his service to his community and to congratulate him upon his upcoming retirement from the bench. I am so pleased Judge Midyett's community is honoring him by recognizing his many years of service on the bench, but especially for his dedication to and caring about the citizens of his community. Only a special person would provide the years of judicial and legal service Judge Midyett has provided through his 21 years of service as the second longest serving Associate Circuit Judge of Chariton county; for over 29 years as an elected official serving the State of Missouri in the Judicial System first as a Prosecuting attorney then as a Judge. Including his years as a practicing attorney, Judge Midyett has served the citizens of Missouri for 39 years in the Judicial system.

It is my understanding that Judge Midyett is best known for his penchant for jury trials and for being hard but fair on criminals. During his tenure as a Chariton County Prosecuting Attorney, Judge Midyett had at least one jury trial each month. For a rural county with a small population, that is a fair amount which proves justice is being served. He believes that all citizens should uphold the law and that no one is above the law. The citizens of Chariton County have known him to be extremely fair and honest. He has upheld the law through his knowledge of the law and his years of experience. Through Judge Midyett's example, others are reminded that Chariton County can only thrive within a strong and just community.

Judge Midyett is a well respected judge in his community. Judge Midyett upholds the tra-

ditions and honors of the Judicial Branch of Missouri government. His accomplishments include: Appointments by the Missouri Supreme Court for the Civil Rules Committee; the Judicial Weighted Workload Steering Committee 2006–2008; Board of Directors of the Missouri associate Probate Associate Circuit Judges 2005–2009; former President of the 9th Circuit Bar; past member of Missouri Prosecuting Attorney Associations; past member of National District Attorneys' Association; Associate of Trial Lawyers of America; Association of Lawyers for Pilots Association; City Attorney for Keytesville 1974–1985.

Service to the Keytesville community is a hallmark of Judge Midyett's character. His friends and colleagues honoring him are but a few of the organizations that have grown from his leadership. The Judge has been extremely active in local and civic activities including: Board of Directors of Keytesville Lions Club; former President of Keytesville Lions Club; former President of Keytesville Chamber of Commerce; member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Salisbury; philosophically and in real terms, Judge Midyett is a proud member of the Chariton County Democratic party.

Foremost among the Judge's many accomplishments has been his recent work obtaining pictures of former Chariton County judges for the Courthouse. Judge Midyett has searched extensively for pictures of the past judges and done an amazing amount of research on the lives of these judges and the times they lived in. What a wonderful legacy to leave your community. Your personal commitment to the legal and judicial system in Keytesville and Chariton County serves as a model for what it means to give back to our communities.

Madam Speaker, once again, I want to share my sincerest congratulations to Judge Midyett as he receives our well deserved recognition. I wish the Judge the best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 647, I was absent from the House. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING NORMAN YOSHIO MINETA

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 1377 to honor the accomplishments of Norman Yoshio Mineta, a pioneering public servant whom I am privileged to call my friend.

I thank my colleagues, Congressman MIKE HONDA and Congresswoman JUDY CHU, for introducing this important resolution.

Norm Mineta has served this country and the Asian American and Pacific Islander community with great distinction and unparalleled humility. The many "firsts" he has to his

name—the first Asian American mayor of a major U.S. city, the first chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and the first Asian American member of a presidential Cabinet—dot a remarkable career that has been dedicated to bettering lives through efficient transportation, expanding civil rights for all, and strengthening Asian American and Pacific Islander participation in public life.

I thank my dear friend Norm Mineta for his tremendous and longstanding leadership, and I look forward to continuing to work with him on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

HONORING CARLA FURSTENBERG
COHEN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to honor Carla Furstenberg Cohen, whose creative ideas and feisty energy were embodied in her legendary bookstore, *Politics and Prose*, here in the Nation's capital. With her partner, Barbara Meade, Carla Cohen, who died on October 11, 2010, built a small storefront with eclectic books into a major public literary salon that defined Washington as more than a gray government town.

Her love of books could not be contained inside the book covers alone, however. *Politics and Prose* also became a combination discussion platform for authors—from Bill Clinton to Alice Walker—basement coffee shop with open mics for musicians, and a hangout for browsers turned off by the big box chain stores.

No one who knew Carla, as I did at Antioch College, can be surprised that Carla Furstenberg, with her effervescent personality, had the power to create an institution. She did not leave all that energy at college, however. Of course, Carla, like the brightest young women of her generation, got a master's degree, was married for 52 years to David Cohen, and had two children. She worked in urban planning and housing and served as a staff member in the House of Representatives before joining the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

However, Carla found her true calling at *Politics and Prose*, "a place where books are not commodities." The bookstore was a meeting place for those who wanted to do more than buy books. People who found it important to have a place to talk about books and about politics, art, and the issues and items of the day often found their way to *Politics and Prose*.

Carla Cohen threw herself and her savings into *Politics and Prose*, mortgaging her house and borrowing from family and friends to open the store in 1984, when the mega bookstores were at their high point. The giant retailers responded by trying to copy what they could from the book lovers' intimate atmosphere of *Politics and Prose*. The bookstore continued to thrive. Despite the recession, its sales, at \$7.5 million, were \$3 million more than two years ago.

Politics and Prose will survive its extraordinary creator. Though the bookstore was put

up for sale shortly before Carla Cohen's death, co-owner Barbara Meade is conducting the sale by actually interviewing the six finalists, among more than 50 who made offers.

The lessons should be clear enough. If bookstores want to survive at all in the age of electronic books, they had best study the model that Carla Furstenberg Cohen created.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the amazing life of Carla Furstenberg Cohen of *Politics and Prose*, a legacy with life still to give.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BATTLEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BOBCATS, 2010 VIRGINIA AAA DIVISION 6 FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Battlefield High School Bobcats from Gainesville, Virginia for winning the 2010 Virginia AAA Division 6 State Championship in football.

The Battlefield High School team completed the regular season with a record of 8 wins and 2 losses. To capture the title, Battlefield won four straight playoff games and defeated a team from Hermitage High School in Richmond, Virginia that had only lost once in their previous 47 games. Battlefield also won their second straight Northwest Region Championship this season. This is Battlefield High School's first State Championship in a team sport. The team is one of only 50 high school football teams out of more than 16,000 nationwide to be honored by the MaxPreps Football Tour of Champions with the National Guard National Ranking Trophy. In recognition of his outstanding leadership, the Washington Post named Head Coach Mark Cox the 2010 All-Met Coach of the Year.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the staff, coaches and players who helped Battlefield High School win the 2010 Virginia AAA Division 6 State Championship.

Principal: Amy Ethridge-Conti.

Athletic Director: Ben Stutler.

Head Coach: Mark Cox.

Assistance Coaches: Mark Johnson, Rob Mello, Vic Ceglie, Paul Labazzetta, Jaime Labazzetta, Bobby Coleman, Greg Williams, Kevin Kerns, Sam Newman, Don Fair, John White, Tim Coughlin.

Players: Terrell Tapscott, Andrew Smith, Bobby Curry, Brian Curry, Sidney Henry, Isiah Wright, Michael Jorgenson, Nathan McGahan, Ishmail Gazawi, Caleb Pinilis, JT Brosnahan, Devon Greene, Ryan Swingle, Devonne Haydon, Jeff Beathard, Cedric Agyeman, Quantray Wilkerson, Nagee Jackson, Anthony Lopez, Jason Hoepker, Jay Onwuka, Lucas Klugh, Chris Wendle, Jake Conway, Grayson Matthews, River Piercy, Eric Michael, Drew Elias, Austin Thibodeaux, Joe Walker, D'Anthonie Delgado, Darius Johnson, Nick Newman, Ryan Newton, Mike Osei, Zavier Stringfellow, Dane Howard, Eddie Cunha, Freddie Potter, Harrison Hyre, Zac Everett, Blaine Varley, David Risoldi, Eric Loehle, Jack Taylor, John Agnos, Ronald Ausberry, Brandon Whaley, Garrett Fox, CJ Incrominias, Brandon Dukeman, Larry

Fields, Darion Duncan, William Soloman, Robert Garland, Turner Meeks, Brian Wilson, Jon Hyre, Jacob Payne.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Battlefield High School Bobcats for winning the 2010 Virginia AAA Division 6 State Championship. This is a well-deserved title that could not have been won without an extraordinary team effort.

IN HONOR OF DARLENE DUNHAM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable public service career of Darlene Dunham. Darlene is retiring from her work in Monterey County as the chief of Staff for County Supervisor Simon Salinas. However, she has had a long path of education and leadership before going to work for the County of Monterey. Of historical interest, Darlene was one of the top 16 money winners on the old television game show *The Joker's Wild*.

Darlene returned to college after having two children, Troy and Denyse. In 1983, she opened her own political consulting and training firm named Darlene Dunham and Associates. By 1998, she had expanded her business by 3 partners and focused on management training and consulting to the agricultural community. She finally received her Masters degree in Leadership at the age of 57.

Darlene spent a decade working in state and local political campaigns as a fundraiser and campaign consultant for now famous Willie Brown, former Speaker of the California Assembly, and former state legislators, now Members of Congress, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, XAVIER BECERRA, JIM COSTA, MAXINE WATERS, DIANE WATSON, and myself. While serving as chair of the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women, Darlene led the first sexual harassment training course for county employees and was one of the first persons certified by the California State Bar Association to train public and private sector personnel including California prison guards.

Along with running her business, Darlene found time to get involved in the community. Darlene has served on the Monterey County Arts Council, she has volunteered with the Salinas Women's Crisis Center, she served as a representative on the Hartnell College Board of Trustees, Vice Chair of the City of Salinas Recreation-Park Commission, and a board member of the Education Foundation for Salinas Union High School District. She was recognized as one of the outstanding women of Monterey County's Commission on the Status of Women. The Salinas Chamber of Commerce gave Darlene their Athena Award for outstanding businesswoman.

Darlene's passion and leadership led her to organize a trip to Morelia, Mexico to provide an opportunity for a group of Elementary School teachers to study the Spanish language and the Mexican culture. Darlene notes that she is looking forward to being retired so she can return to traveling the world with her husband and enjoying her grandchildren Emma, age 4, and Truman, age 1½.

Madam Speaker, I know that I am not alone in recognizing the work of this amazing

woman. Darlene has always been involved in the community and her dedication to make Monterey County a better place will surely continue, even after she retires. For all that she has done and all that she will undoubtedly do, I extend my most sincere thanks and warmest wishes to our friend and professional colleague, Ms. Darlene Dunham.

TRIBUTE TO SPANISH FORT HIGH
SCHOOL'S TOROS—ALABAMA'S 5A
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the great accomplishment of a talented group of young men who worked together to propel the Spanish Fort, Alabama, Toros to the pinnacle of the State Class 5A championship.

On December 2, the Spanish Fort Toros varsity football team ended a historic season by defeating Briarwood Christian 14 to 0 to win the Alabama Class 5A title. This victory represents the first time the Spanish Fort Toros have captured a State football championship during their brief four years of fielding a team.

I would like to congratulate coaches Bryant Vincent, Tommy Walker, Chase Smith, George Brown, Richard Kelly, Duane Davis, Wayne Davis, Earnest Hill, Justin Moore, Michael Beasley, Rob Milam, and the entire Toros team: Connor Mitchell, Otis Smith, Christopher Beasley, Billy Harris, Blake Dees, Joel Poe, Ameriol Finley, Barkley Sims, Garrett Horst, Davares Ambrose, Shane English, Jonathon Cook, Demarco Montgomery, Matthew Harris, Conner McGavin, Troy Brown, Daniel Pond, Michael Tynes, Matt Hall, Devontae Patrick, Brett Lesinger, Kylan Cotton, Hunter Glass, Jarred Hodges, Brendan McCants, Dillen Malone, Alex Thomas, James Rocket, David Sullivan, Cory McCarron, Cameron Bosarge, Keland Dotch, Marcus Walton, Alec Morgan, Jake Clemmenson, Blain Crain, Jack Wilson, Bobby Creighton, Brandon Sledge, Tyler Bexley, Brannan Crosby, Aaron Caldwell, Conner Gates, Jake Brackhan, Byron Stringer, Russell Whisnant, Tanner McNair, Grant Horst, Will Martin, Chase Holliman, Patrick Connick, Zac Fowler, Reed Pennington, Grey Curtis, Victor Dunning, Chris Morehouse, Zack Burnett, Cameron Gates, Patrick Williamson, Cade Burgin, Osmond Curtis, Walker Betts, Reese Dismukes, Chandler Wilson, Kaleb Hall, Hampton Cline, David Bertagnoli, Kevin Townsend, Timothy Pharez, Grant Curreton, Jared Burtrico, Adam Adcock, John Jagae and Brandon Hayliger.

Congratulations Toros.

HONORING MARY ELLEN
BRANDELL

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Ellen Brandell, who lost her coura-

geous battle with leukemia on September 24, 2010.

I first got to know Mary Ellen when she was working at Central Michigan University, and I was just beginning my political career. She gave this young candidate a lesson in Mt. Pleasant and Isabella County politics and the confidence to ultimately win a congressional campaign.

Her kindness has stayed with me throughout these years, as I have grown closer to the Brandell family.

In fact, her son Jim is my Chief of Staff. Now a decade into service for this institution, Jim carries with him the sensibilities instilled by Mary Ellen: Family, faith, and true citizenship.

For far too many people, these are mere words, but for Mary Ellen, these were the pillars on which she built and lived her life. And they served her well. She was a constant presence in the Mt. Pleasant community. From continuing her work with the ever-growing Central Michigan University, to her extensive list of charities including most recently with the Isabella County Sesquicentennial Committee, Woodland Hospice, Access to Recreation, and the Rotary Club. In fact, her efforts were so well recognized that she was named Mt. Pleasant Citizen of the Year.

She was also a world traveler, taking yearly trips with Jim to see new corners of our planet. She valued the time she spent with her family, but also used these opportunities to meet distant relatives and make new friends. She was even utilized in her role as a community leader of Mt. Pleasant to reach out to sister cities.

Even with these public and global accomplishments, I know that Mary Ellen's proudest accomplishment was her family, which includes seven children and fifteen grandchildren. She has given them the love and nurturing they needed to grow and excel in their careers and she led by example, by returning to school and getting her master's, specialist and doctoral degrees, after her seventh child was born. And she put her family first, selflessly caring for her husband Dick at home for many years as his health declined prior to his death in 2004.

Mary Ellen was a remarkable woman, and one that cannot be replaced. She will be remembered for all of the lives that she had touched. I will be forever grateful for her kindness and generosity.

TRIBUTE TO PAT HEDGES

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a community leader, Pat Hedges, on his retirement after 33 years of service with the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department, most currently as Sheriff-Coroner.

Sheriff Hedges grew up in San Luis Obispo County, graduating from Morro Bay High School in 1970, earning an associate degree from Cuesta College and later a bachelor's degree in administration of justice from California State University, Sacramento. After receiving his degree from Cuesta College, Sher-

iff Hedges went on to join the United States Coast Guard in 1971, went through boot camp in Alameda, California, and served in the Coast Guard until his retirement in 1997. He went to work for Pacific Engineering in 1973 and then Thrifty Drug in 1974. In 1977, he began his career with the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Hedges was elected Sheriff of San Luis Obispo County in 1998, and served 3 consecutive terms. As Sheriff, he was responsible for law enforcement for an area in excess of 3,200 square miles, oversaw 400 employees, and oversaw a county jail that currently houses more than 500 inmates. Sheriff Hedges instituted many improvements and was instrumental in forging the modern Sheriff's Department. Among many things, Sheriff Hedges helped facilitate opening the new North Patrol Station in Templeton and a DNA laboratory for the department. He improved the efficiency of law enforcement in San Luis Obispo County by creating an Independent Sheriff's Narcotics Unit, forming the Rural Crime Task Force, and implementing school resource officers. Sheriff Hedges also was a founding member of the Anti-Gang Coordinating Council and established the Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Unit.

Sheriff Hedges currently serves on the Board of Governors for the San Luis Obispo County Narcotics Task Force and has previously served in many community organizations including the North County Women's Shelter and the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center Board, San Luis Obispo Mental Health Board, California State and San Luis Obispo County Cattlemen's Associations, and the Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission. Sheriff Hedges is a member of the Los Angeles Joint Terrorism Task Force Executive Board.

Dedicated to serving his community in a variety of ways, Sheriff Hedges' leadership at the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department will be deeply missed. I've known Pat for years and value his friendship and support, and while he may no longer be Sheriff, Pat will continue to be a leader in our community. I plan to continue to call on him for advice and counsel, and a good dose of his dry wit.

In this new chapter of his life, I'm sure Pat is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Sandy, and children. I commend his service to the County of San Luis Obispo, and I hope that Sheriff Hedges enjoys the next stage of his life.

HONORING NORMAN YOSHIO
MINETA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for one minute.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1377, a resolution honoring the accomplishments of Norman Yoshio Mineta.

There are not too many public servants that are requested to serve as a cabinet member by a President of a different political party.

Norman Yoshio Mineta's good nature, astute knowledge and seamless ability to be a

first-rate mediator gave rise to his selection to serve our country regardless of the political party at the helm.

He was the U.S. Secretary of Transportation for President George W. Bush and U.S. Secretary of Commerce for President Clinton.

Despite being forced to leave his home and relocate to the Hear Mountain internment camp during World War II (a sad example of civil rights injustice), Secretary Mineta's love of country never faltered.

He fought for our freedom in the U.S. Army, and later was elected mayor of San Jose, California.

He continued his public service as U.S. Representative to the 15th district of California where he founded and chaired the bicameral and bipartisan Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).

Secretary Mineta dedicated his life to our country and we are a better Nation because of his work and legacy.

Secretary Mineta is the fitting recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, in 2006, and the Grand Cordon, Order of the Rising Sun from the Japanese Government, which was the highest honor bestowed upon an individual of Japanese descent outside of Japan.

Secretary Mineta, we thank you for your service to our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res 1377 in recognition of his lifetime of service to our Nation.

HONORING BYRON LEYDECKER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON today to recognize the great accomplishments of our friend Byron Leydecker, who recently announced that he will conclude operation of Friends of the Trinity River, the organization he founded eighteen years ago and has led ever since.

The Trinity River flows through mountains in coastal northern California and is the largest tributary of the Klamath River. These rivers supported huge bountiful populations of both Chinook and Coho salmon, steelhead and other fish that sustained native Americans for millennia and visitors from other continents for the past two centuries. The impacts of ill-advised and poorly managed development had devastated both the Trinity and the Klamath. Thanks in large part to Byron, the Trinity is on its way to recovery.

He pushed the Department of the Interior to develop and then implement the historic 2000 Trinity Record of Decision, he has worked tirelessly ever since to ensure that the Trinity restoration program goes forward as intended, and he has pushed the agencies to follow the science.

Byron has led an active and vigorous organization over the years, devoting his time, energy, and financial resources to make a real difference in the direction of the Trinity River restoration program, which is today one of the leading efforts of its kind.

Byron and FOTR have worked with the usual alphabet soup of government agencies,

as well as tribes, fishermen, and water and power interests, to develop and implement the restoration plan. Byron has always been consistent and persistent, cooperative when possible and tough when needed.

Thanks to Byron and the work of FOTR, the Trinity River is now in better shape than at any time since the 1960s—we have seen increased flows, a healthier fishery, and a stronger scientific foundation for its management.

While there will always be snags and eddies in these undertakings, the successful restoration of the Trinity River will serve as a national model of a restored river below a federal dam. The Trinity River could have no better friend than Byron Leydecker. We are grateful to Byron for his leadership, and thank him for all his work on behalf of healthy rivers and sustainable fisheries.

TRIBUTE TO FORT DALE ACADEMY'S CHAMPIONSHIP EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my alma mater, Greenville's Fort Dale Academy, for its outstanding achievement in capturing the Alabama Independent School Association's Class AAA title.

On November 19, the Fort Dale Academy Eagles soared to victory over their rival, the Monroe Academy Volunteers, winning the state championship by a 49 to 21 margin.

Both teams were outstanding this year, and while I represent Monroe Academy in Congress, I hope they will allow me to express my pride for this unique achievement by my alma mater.

I wish to congratulate the Eagles' head coach James "Speed" Sampley, assistant coaches Daniel Autrey, Josh Beverly, Clint Lowery, Jason Taylor, Jimmy Gardner, Jimmy Phelps, Bert Rice, and Will McInvale; and, the Eagles varsity players, Taylor Windham, Matthew Bender, Eli Blackmon, Ryan Salter, Andrew Callen, Stephen Till, Stewart Matthews, Hunter Armstrong, Ryan Taylor, Dylan Jones, Patrick Russell, Chip Taylor, Mason Stinson, Dow Gardner, Ethan Gregory, Luke Hamm, Zane Speir, Taylor Loftin, Perry Singleton, Jacob Phillips, Miller Owens, Brandon Matthews, Manny Norrell, Sawyer Reeves, Chase Whiddon, Loreda Russell, Caleb Luckie, Tripp Neilson, Patten Thompson, Charlie Scofield, Alex Bloodworth, Taylor Hartley, Cade Tillery, Brady Clark, Larry Harold, Tyler Jones, Ethan Edgar, Davis Crocker, Bud Thagard, Chase Smith, Chance Williams, Alex Medley, Jonathan Scott, and Will Davis.

Congratulations on an excellent season and for bringing Fort Dale Academy its first state crown.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, due to recent major surgery, I have been unable to

travel to Washington, DC and would like the record to reflect my stated positions on three major votes that I missed due to my recovery from surgery.

Rollcall vote 625 of December 8, 2010 on HR 5281 that contained the DREAM Act, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 638 of December 15, 2010 on the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 647 of December 17, 2010 on the Tax Compromise, I would have voted "nay."

I look forward to returning to Washington, DC next month when cleared to travel by my doctor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 642, to suspend the rules and pass S. 3447 the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4853, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010.

It is fundamentally wrong to hold for ransom unemployment benefits to the most vulnerable individuals among us for tax cuts to billions. That's what happened here: 99.7 percent of us will not be affected by the estate tax, yet a \$23 billion bribe to just 6,600 families across the entire country was needed to get those unemployment benefits in the bill. And, we then add the entire cost of the bill, all \$860 billion, straight to the deficit.

Surely, there are worthwhile provisions in this bill. However, these worthwhile provisions should not be held ransom for tax cuts to the richest taxpayers—\$60 billion in tax cuts for them—some \$24 billion more than the struggling middle class who've been the hardest hit by the economic downturn. I fully support extending such low and middle-class tax relief such as the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, the dependent care credit, the earned income tax credit, the student loan interest deduction, and Alternative Minimum Tax relief, among others. But don't tell me I have to vote

for giving tax cuts to billionaires for two years when we can't even give our seniors on Social Security \$250 for one.

Speaking of Social Security, this bill represents the single greatest threat to the program since President Bush wanted to privatize it. This bill requires a \$111 billion infusion from general funds into the Social Security Trust Fund to make up the difference for cutting two percent from the employee payroll tax. Next year, if the economy hasn't recovered sufficiently, Congress will not have the stomach to let the tax holiday expire—no Member of Congress will want to "raise" payroll taxes by two percent. Any future extension of this tax holiday necessarily means that Social Security will compete with other federal programs, such as veterans, medical research, and defense, for its funding. This dangerous precedent means that Social Security's dedicated funding, payroll taxes, is under attack. This opens the door to means testing and benefit cuts for beneficiaries. Make no mistake, Social Security's opponents will be enticed to move in for the kill by moving to privatize the program.

I don't oppose extending the middle-class tax cuts for 98 percent or 99 percent of taxpayers. In fact, before this compromise was struck, I supported raising the threshold from \$250,000 to something more reasonable, such as \$400,000, because where my constituents live there is a much higher cost of living than in other parts of the country. However, to hold extending those middle-class tax cuts hostage to pass a bill that will cost more than TARP, more than the stimulus, and add \$860 billion to the national debt, is not acceptable.

Mr. Chair, it's hard to climb the ladder of prosperity if the middle rungs are missing. This bill does nothing to restore those middle rungs; instead, by giving the most to those who need it the least, it perpetuates the failed thinking that somehow the rest of us will benefit. I for one won't pay this ransom—my vote—for a few crumbs when we should be getting what's fair for our constituents. I will vote no on the underlying bill and I ask my colleagues to do so as well.

TRIBUTE TO THE DAPHNE HIGH SCHOOL TROJANS—ALABAMA'S 6A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the outstanding achievement of the Daphne High School Trojan varsity football team in capturing the Alabama Class 6A title.

On December 3, the unbeaten Trojans held tough, despite a determined Hoover High School that was knocking on the one yard line, to cinch a 7 to 6 victory at the State Class 6A championship game. It was truly a classic in Alabama high school athletics.

I would like to congratulate the Trojan coaching squad, Glenn Vickery, Brian Campbell, Milton Sutton, Mike Vickery, Lawrence Yelding, Bart Sessions, Mike Barnard, Benny Houston, and Nathan McNair as well as the entire Trojan varsity team, including, Israel Lamprakes, Leo Battiste, Kyndal Minnefield, T.J. Yeldon, Torren McGaster, Tyrell Holloway, Ryan Anderson, Justin Jackson, Chris

Hill, T.J. Fleeton, Chris Sain, Cartels Young, Horace Johnson, Russ Mosely, Douglas Perdue, Adam Lofton, Brandon Roberts, Trey Jenkins, Zack Morgan, Markell Jones, Jonathan McGaster, Robert Nettles, Jr., Rodrick Tate, Michael Pierce, Jalan Coleman, Trey Rembert, Josh Johnson, Zach Houston, Preston Conley, Trey Thomas, Bennett Barr, Patrick Wilson, Clark Newsome, Daniel Coole, Jeremy Freeman, Zach Sanchez, Malik Pruitt, Dominic Edney, Zack Taylor, Caleb McMillan, Cain Knox, Kevin Wilson, Pierce Parker, Josh Kirchharr, Willie White, Trent Johns, Greg Jenkins, Nic Morgan, Andy Headley, Ben Lewis, Ashton Mcquiterly, T.J. Jackson, Carlos Barrera, Jordan Davis, Colton Byrd, Jonathan Perry, Anthony Rudolph, Lucas Carson, Cameron Lemcool, Hunter Broadus, Elliot Williams, Kevin Caldwell, Matthew Mabry, Jeremy Sparks, Ronnie Williams, Monya Brown, Robert Alexander, Jonathan Parslow, Jacob Olmsted, Ryan Olson, Dalis Houston, Clay Myers, Blake Douglas, Adam Daniel, Serge Kolotov, David Phillips, Alex Jackson, James Reyner, Eric Lee, David Carroll, Ryan Pugh, and Duquan Able.

Congratulations, gentlemen on a truly amazing season and Alabama Class 6A victory.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF KENT SYLER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Kent Syler for his contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out someone who has accomplished an amazing feat that deserves recognition, applause, and perhaps, a test of his sanity; incredibly, Kent Syler has been a part of my staff for all of my 26 years in Congress.

Kent and I both attended Middle Tennessee State University, where we both served as student body president. Kent then came to work for the Tennessee State Democratic Party, where I served as chairman. As my district Chief of Staff, he has managed an outstanding staff in Tennessee, represented me at events when Congress' voting schedule has prevented me from being home, and provided me with advice and counsel on some of the toughest challenges facing our nation.

So many of my legislative accomplishments would never have been possible without Kent's invaluable contributions and hard work. In the early 1990s, Kent traveled with me to Romania to visit orphanages and talk with Romanian policymakers about the country's adoption policies. His hard work helped lead to the easing of Romania's cumbersome adoption restrictions, allowing hundreds of Romanian children to find loving homes in the United States. Kent also inspired the first regulations on the 1-800 and 1-900 number in-

dustry, prompted by a late night TV session when he was on bottle-feeding duty with his then-baby daughter Liala. The Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Resolution Act is now law, and Liala is now a student at MTSU.

Kent and I have done our best to stay true to our principles over the years, and we have never lost faith in MTSU's Blue Raiders. Kent has always had his finger on the pulse of the community, a valuable attribute that has made him a trusted advisor.

Kent is an institution in Rutherford County, which has seen enormous development and nearly tripled in population since he and I first began working together three decades ago. Together, we have worked to improve the quality of life in our community through the expansion to Stones River National Battlefield, the development of the Greenway system and improvements to MTSU.

Kent is one of three men who have stood by me from the very beginning, through victories and disasters—through hell and, literally, high water in the aftermath of tornadoes and severe flooding. Along with Jimmy Stubblefield and Billy G. Smith, Kent has been there every step of the way.

Kent has dedicated his entire adult life to me and to our community. I can't ask for much more than that. He was best man at my wedding. He met his wife Lynell while working for me, and I've watched their daughters Liala and Emily grow up to be bright, accomplished young women.

Madam Speaker, any success I've had is Kent's success. He is a dedicated public servant, a respected leader in his community and a trusted friend. Kent, thank you for all your help and dedication over these many years. I wish you, Lynell, Liala and Emily all the best.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

Ladies and gentlemen, thanks for coming to the oldest post of the Marine Corps, the Marine Barracks of Washington, D.C. A little history on this hall—it is now called the Crawford Hall, named after that great band director that you see on the wall over there. But this was the original stomping grounds of John Philip Sousa.

And this was where John Philip Sousa, who was raised in Washington, D.C. a block-and-a-half from the Marine Barracks of Washington, wrote his many, many military marches. So this is sacred ground for the Marine Corps . . . the grounds were actually discovered by the then-Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Burrows, and the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson.

It's good to have you here. We're honored to have many distinguished guests with us today.

First, the chairman's lovely wife, Patty. Patty, thank you for braving the rainstorm. I was watching the weather—being a good pilot, I pay very close attention to the weather—and I managed to pick the one day that there was supposed to be heavy rain and a flood in Washington, so I'm glad you're here. And for everybody else that managed to get it out, thank you for being here.

From the great state of Missouri, Representative Emanuel Cleaver is here; Representative Todd Akin, Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer, Representative Paul Broun of the United States Marine Corps, from the great state of Georgia. From the great state of Arkansas, Representative Vic Snyder, United States Marine Corps; and Representative Jane Harman from the great state of California.

The 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, and former National Security Advisor, General Jim Jones, and the former first lady of the Marine Corps, his lovely bride Diane. The Under Secretary of the Air Force, former chief of staff of the House Armed Services Committee, and a secret and latent admirer of the United States Marine Corps is with us, [the Honorable Erin Conaton].

A particularly warm welcome to the men and women who really do the heavy-lifting for the committee: Paul Arcangeli is here, the chief of staff of the House Armed Services Committee. Debra Wada is here, the deputy staff director for the House Armed Services Committee. Paul Lewis is here today, general counsel to the House Armed Services Committee, and Will Ebbs is here as a professional staff member and a close personal friend of the United States Marine Corps.

General Joe Dunford, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and his bride Ellyn are with us. Sergeant Major Carlton Kent, sitting at the head table, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps; the current first lady of the Marine Corps, my lovely bride Bonnie, sitting next to the chairman and a host of fellow general officers from around the national capital region are all here.

Welcome on this radiant morning as we gather to pay tribute to a national hero, an all-around friend to men and women from all branches of service, but in particular, to the United States Marine Corps.

I'm keenly aware of the chairman's adherence to punctuality during committee hearings, having testified before him more than one or two times. So before he puts down the gavel on me, I'll call the chaplain up, we'll ask for grace and then we'll be on for breakfast, and I'll join you after breakfast. Bon appetit.

AFTER BREAKFAST REMARKS

[Someone asked me], "How do you like your new job?" And I think I've been in it about six weeks. I said, "Oh, it's great. There's nothing going on here, just JSF, EFV, 'don't ask, don't tell'—among a few other things."

Speaking of "don't ask, don't tell," I talked to Admiral Willard yesterday, who is the PACOM commander out at Camp Smith in Hawaii, and we were talking about some joint matters and personnel matters and that kind of stuff.

And I said, "Hey, Bob, how's Korea going?" He said, "You know, this is—as you might imagine—consuming an awful lot of my time." And we talked about Korea for just a little bit. And I said, "Bob, I'll make a deal: I'll trade you 'don't ask, don't tell' for North Korea." And there was silence on the phone. For 40 seconds, you could sense that he was churning the idea—he says, "No, I'll take North Korea."

While we gather here, it's 9:00 am, and it's about 5:30 in the evening in the Helmand province in southern Afghanistan. The sun has just gone down. The night is beginning to cool off rapidly, and Marines are finding their way in from patrols and convoys from all over those 10,000 square miles. And they're coming in, looking for some place to eat chow.

And I doubt seriously that the chow that they're going to find will be quite as good as we have here this morning. Contrary to pop-

ular belief, I did not fix this breakfast at 2:00 this morning. It was done by the great chefs that you see running around in here and taking such great care of us. But the 20,000 Marines and sailors will have just come in [to their Forward Operating Bases] all across Helmand Province. Some are getting ready to go out on their night patrols.

The [Marines there] have many things in common. They're tired and they're hungry. Some will have had a rougher day than others. We are in a particularly nasty part of Afghanistan. There is much good news in the Helmand province, but there are also some tough spots that the Marines and the sailors, and those coalition and allied forces are working their way through, up in the northeast corner [of the Helmand Province].

But they all have one thing in common. They may be tired; they may be scared. They may have just seen one of their brothers fall. They may be hungry. But all in all, all 20,000 are a happy lot. Chairman Skelton and I were out on the portico and watched Old Glory being raised up over Marine Barracks Washington, and a lone bugler played. And I was standing there alongside the chairman and thinking, what is it about Marines that they find solace in something as heart-warming as raising the American flag?

I thought about it and I came to the conclusion that there really are about three things that live in the soul of every U.S. Marine. They're almost spiritual in nature. I'm not talking about Baptist or Catholic or Jewish. I'm talking about that sense of spirit that resides in a force such as the United States Marine Corps. These spiritual things define who we are and they define and help explain, to some measure, why we've been able to do the many things the Marine Corps has done over its 235 years of service to our nation.

First, all Marines have a love of country. It's at their core; it's at their very roots. They believe in the ideals of our nation and they feel it's their duty as a citizen to serve this country in some capacity. They chose the Marine Corps over other options. We didn't join them; they joined us.

Second, Marines are willing to sacrifice in service to our country and in service to their fellow Americans—through frequent deployments, through separation from family members and a willingness to give their life for their country and their fellow Marines. This is the life of a U.S. Marine.

Finally, a commitment to a higher calling—a calling that is larger than themselves, that binds them and all Marines together. This commitment to our Corps, to our country and all that it represents can be seen here at Marine Barracks Washington, on-board the mighty Navy vessels of the 15th, the 26th and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Units—which are at sea today as we have breakfast, and in the Helmand province, with the 20,000 Marines and sailors in southern Afghanistan.

Ladies and gentleman, Chairman Isaac Newton Skelton, IV, known to many as Ike, is a true patriot, an American statesman, and most notably, he has lived his life in service to our great nation. Like our Marines, Chairman Skelton has loved his country above all else, having served it faithfully as a U.S. Representative for over 33 years.

He has willingly sacrificed what most Americans hold dear, a private and personal life. He has sacrificed his family time, his time away from his wife, from his children, and now, from his grandchildren. And like many of his fellow Marines, he has grown old during a time of war. And lastly, no one can doubt his willingness to be part of something that's greater than himself, as he has served his fellow Americans for [these many] years.

Born and raised in the great state of Missouri—or as he would say, Mi-zoor-uh—he's a

Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Missouri. He was a Missouri state senator before he joined Congress. And since 1977, Chairman Skelton has represented the 4th district of the "Show-Me" state, an area where the chairman's hero president, Harry S. Truman, was born and raised. For 33 years, Chairman Skelton has kept his constituents and our nation's best interests at heart.

However, for all the countless things he has done in Congress, he is known best for his love and care of the U.S. military serviceman and woman. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Goldwater-Nichols Act. I'm told the only reason his name is not on that bill is because at the time he was too junior a U.S. congressman. But historians say that it was largely his commitment to the bill that helped carry it across the finish line.

Chairman Skelton is known throughout the military as the father of professional military education. Our own Marine Corps University exists down at Quantico in its current form almost singularly due to the support of Chairman Skelton. It exists with a robust staff, professorships, research capability, all because of your efforts, Chairman. You have always recognized the importance of a thinking officer corps.

His prescience is paying huge dividends throughout the world today, as we continue to fight a complex and adaptive enemy in some of the world's toughest spots, all with the keenly educated minds of our young men and women. He has been a leading voice in seeing the fight through in Afghanistan. Before it was popular, he recognized the importance of a stronger military presence in Afghanistan, knowing that failure would only strengthen the resolve of a vicious ideology.

Chairman Skelton is no stranger to the U.S. Marine Corps. Each year since 2001, when U.S. Marines from Task Force 58—5,000 strong—made their debut in Afghanistan, and throughout the many long years in Iraq, Chairman Skelton travelled to theater over and over again to speak and spend time with men and women from all services, but in particular to his Marines, always ready to provide help in any way possible.

He is equally comfortable talking to a lance corporal, a machine gunner, or a three-star general. And if you asked him this morning, he would probably tell you he'd rather talk to the lance corporal. And I can't say I blame him.

For those of you who don't know, Chairman Skelton is a military history buff. He is particularly fascinated with the World War II Pacific campaign, so much so that on a trip last year through the Pacific region—many of you that are here having breakfast with us this morning were on that trip—he made a point to schedule a stop on the island of Iwo Jima, where he laid a wreath at the memorial on Mount Suribachi.

He has been previously honored by the Marine Corps on three different occasions. He is the 1994 recipient of the Marine Corps University's Chapman Medallion, honoring his efforts to enhance professional military education in our Corps. He is a 2001 recipient of the Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award, honoring his leadership and support of the United States Marine Corps. He is an honorary graduate of Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

I spoke earlier of the three almost spiritual things that embody a U.S. Marine: love of country, willingness to sacrifice, commitment to something larger than themselves. Ladies and gentlemen, Ike Skelton has all three of these characteristics in spades. Thus it is fitting and appropriate that we recognize him for his unyielding support and devotion to corps and country.

Chairman, today you join your father, who was a Navy man. You join your son Jim, who is an Army colonel, and your son Ike, who is a Navy captain. And as a proud member of the U.S. military, you join them today in the ranks. And now, sir, you have true family bragging rights on all of them because you're about to become a member of the world's finest fighting force.

In the 235-year history of the United States Marine Corps, only 73 other Americans have been awarded the title honorary Marine. It was established to reinforce the special bond between Marines and the American people. Finally, it was established in recognition of individuals who have distinguished themselves through noteworthy service to Corps and country.

Chairman, in honor of all that you stand for, in honor of all that you have accomplished, and in honor of all that you have done for the United States of America and its Marine Corps, you are, without question, deserving of the title of United States Marine. Chairman, will you please join me up front?

CITATION

To all who shall see these presents greetings, know ye that reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, fidelity and abilities of the Honorable Ike Skelton, I do appoint him an honorary Marine of the United States Marine Corps for his unyielding support and devotion to Corps and country. In testimony thereof, I, General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, have hereunto inscribed my name. Done in the city of Washington, this first day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and in the 235th year of the independence of the United States of America.

You have plenty of things hanging in your office, and I'd appreciate it if you'd take [one of] them down [to make room for this citation]. But this is your certificate of being a United States Marine. Chairman, you are loved by those 202,000 Marines that are on active duty and the hundreds of thousands that have had your fingerprints on them over the last many years that you've been not only a U.S. Congressman, but, in particular, the Chairman.

Sir, you have loved your Marines. You have loved our men and women. And we are very, very grateful for all that you have done for us. It is our pleasure and our honor to make you a United States Marine.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF LAPEER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHAIRMAN DAVID TAYLOR

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the dedicated public service of Lapeer County Board of Commissioners Chairman David Taylor. On December 31, 2010, David will retire after 14 years as a Member of the Board. He has been Chairman since 1999, leading Lapeer County for over an entire decade. Despite the various challenges and economic difficulties across the State of Michigan, Chairman Taylor has remained resilient and has kept the county on the right path—always working to serve the best interests of the people he has had the privilege to represent.

David's decision to run for County Commissioner came in 1997. But before this, he brought with him a unique background and perspective to help in his new role as leader of the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Taylor was born in Pontiac; he worked on his family farm in Dryden. Later, he was employed for 30 years at the General Motors Pontiac Truck Plant. He then moved on to Metamora Township and served as the Zoning Administrator and was a delivery man for Champion Bus and Truck.

During his time as an elected official, Mr. Taylor has filled numerous committee spots and other posts to help move Lapeer County forward and to create a brighter future for the next generation to follow. He has been a shining example of strong leadership and has provided solid vision for Lapeer County.

It has been my privilege to work with him on a vast array of issues that are vital to Lapeer County during my role as a federal legislator. David has been a tremendous partner, friend and asset to my office. He is always looking to improve the quality of life for all residents and discovering new ways to make Lapeer County a wonderful place to live, raise a family and work.

I commend Chairman Taylor for all his efforts and personal sacrifice during his tenure on the Board. I know David will always have Lapeer County's best interests at heart which is evident by his charity work. We fully know and understand that we are not doing our job if we do not provide a better future for our children . . . and their children. David's work with the Shriners International and their Motorcycle Drill Team is just one of the many examples of how Mr. Taylor is committed to his community and those who will eventually take the reins as leaders.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I want to extend my best wishes to David Taylor on this special occasion. He will be severely missed on the Board, but his presence will still be felt by those who continue to serve. I hope he enjoys doing the things he loves most like spending time with his family, hunting, snowmobiling, volunteering and traveling. His service to the citizens of Lapeer County, the State of Michigan and our Nation is officially recognized and greatly appreciated.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise to revise my remarks regarding the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4853, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.

I request the record reflect that Ms. Tammy Fisher is from West Texas, not East Texas.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF BILLY G. SMITH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Billy G. Smith for his contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out someone who has accomplished an amazing feat that deserves recognition, applause, and perhaps, a test of his sanity; incredibly, Billy G. has been a part of my staff for all of my 26 years in Congress.

Billy and I have worked together since my first campaign for Congress in 1984. In the Upper Cumberland, Billy emerged as a man who could get things done. After the election, he became my field representative for the area, and he has served my constituents there ever since. My younger staff members fondly say that Billy is old school, and, Madam Speaker, that's just fine by me. Billy is an old soul of the Upper Cumberland — a man who knows his neighbors, memorizes the best fishing holes, and earns his community's trust.

To say Billy has deep roots in the Upper Cumberland would be an understatement. As a boy, Billy helped his father work the farm with mules instead of a tractor. He served as Putnam County Sheriff in the 1970s and has worked as a police officer, a factory foreman, managed food and beverages for a hotel, opened a restaurant called Billy G's, and rented out a building complex. He knows everyone there is to know and is an institution unto himself.

In his 26 years as my field representative, Billy has helped thousands of constituents who have come to my office on the courthouse square in Cookeville. He has warmly received individuals, families and business owners looking for assistance with a federal agency. He has ensured countless people received the Social Security and veterans benefits they deserve. He has heard the concerns and touched the lives of many families in need of help, and he has always kept me informed of the needs of my constituents in Clay, Jackson, Putnam, Overton and Smith counties. Just this year, he found himself trying to help constituents who had lost property in the wake of damaging floods. He could easily sympathize; his own childhood home also was severely damaged in the storm, but Billy was still in the office ready to help anyone he could.

In all his time working for me and the residents of the Upper Cumberland, Billy has never taken a full vacation, so it may come as no shock to many that Billy has made plans to go into business for himself once again. Most folks who had such accomplished careers would already be well into retirement, but Billy

will be continuing on with his work as a small business owner.

A constituent once knitted a sign that hung above Billy's desk that read, "I am just a nobody, trying to help somebody." Billy was fond of telling this to folks who came to my office for assistance. It reassured them that he was there to help, and it let them know their concerns were important to him, and to me. Madam Speaker, it is that generosity and humility that have made him a friend to so many and such a valuable colleague to me. Billy has been a dedicated public servant, a trusted friend and an unstoppable force of nature.

Billy, thank you for all of your help over the years. I wish you all the best in the future.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support much that is contained within this resolution, regarding the need to move forward on direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. A two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is critical to the security of Israel and to the strategic interests of the United States, in the region and around the world.

However, this is a missed opportunity to raise concerns about the unilateral actions taken by both sides. In particular, the ongoing unilateral construction by Israeli settlers. Strong U.S. leadership is needed to bring these two sides together, and any resolution brought to the floor should clearly support that cause.

This resolution does not meet that test and I must oppose it. While the bill recognizes an issue of concern, it does too little to affirm the urgency of achieving a two-state resolution, fails to oppose unilateral actions by all sides, and is silent on supporting the Obama Administration's efforts to negotiate peace.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and the administration in a more productive manner to achieve lasting peace and a comprehensive two-state solution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 16, 2010. If I was present, I would have voted on the following:

On Motion to Adjourn—rollcall No. 639—"nay".

S. 841, Pedestrian Enhancement Safety Act of 2010—rollcall No. 640—"yea".

S. 3860, To Require Reports on the Management of Arlington National Cemetery—rollcall No. 641—"yea".

S. 3447, Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010—rollcall No. 642—"yea".

H. Res. 1766, Agreeing to the Amendment—rollcall No. 643—"aye".

H. Res. 1766, Agreeing to the Resolution, as Amended—rollcall No. 644—"aye".

S. 987, International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2010—rollcall No. 645—"yea".

H.R. 4853, Levin of Michigan Amendment—rollcall No. 646—"aye".

H.R. 4583, Motion to Concur in the Senate Amdt to the House Amdt to the Senate Amdt—rollcall No. 647—"aye".

LITTLE JIMMY DICKENS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor James Cecil Dickens, better known as Little Jimmy Dickens, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. He may be a man of diminutive stature, but Little Jimmy the renowned entertainer and Grand Ole Opry star, stands taller than the rest.

Jimmy Dickens was the first of thirteen children born to a West Virginia farming family and knew from a young age that he wanted to write and sing country music. He first appeared on local radio in the 1940s under the name "Jimmy the Kid" where he began building his reputation as the master of the country novelty song. Some of his early hits include "Take an Old Cold Tater (And Wait)" (1949), "I'm Little But I'm Loud" (1950), "Country Boy" (1949), and "A-Sleeping at the Foot of the Bed" (1950).

In 1948, Roy Acuff heard Jimmy and invited him to perform on the world-famous Grand Ole Opry stage at the Ryman Auditorium. Little Jimmy was an immediate favorite not only for his unforgettable songs, but also for his flamboyant style and country sense of humor. He became a permanent member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1948, and recently celebrated his 60th anniversary as the longest-tenured Opry member of all time.

Little Jimmy was signed to his first major label, Columbia Records, the same year he became an Opry Member. It was at that time that Dickens formed the band the Country Boys, whose line-up included top-flight musicians Jabbo Arrington, Grady Martin, Bob Moore, Buddy Emmons and Thumbs Carlisle. Dickens had a number of hits with the Country Boys, though none bigger than "May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose" (1965), which reached number one on the country charts and hit the pop charts, as well. Little Jimmy holds the unique distinction of having hit records in every decade from the 1940s to the 1970s.

But Little Jimmy Dickens' music is only part of his story and only part of what makes him just as popular today as when he first burst onto the country music scene over 60 years ago. He is quick with a joke and he is kind-hearted. He always has time for his fans and often spends hours signing every last autograph after a show. In an ever-changing music industry, Little Jimmy is a constant presence and a reminder that sometimes nice guys finish first.

Jimmy has long been adored by his country music colleagues as well, whether it be fellow

legends like the late Hank Williams (who nicknamed Jimmy, "Tater") or modern-day superstar, Brad Paisley (who Jimmy often performs with). It is this adoration that earned him a spot in the Country Music Hall of Fame nearly 30 years ago.

Jimmy is celebrating his 90th year as anyone who knows him might guess he'd celebrate it—by entertaining his fans with good country music and humor. He's even worked his age into his act. "You'll know you're 90-years-old," Jimmy tells his fans, "when you drop something, bend over to pick it up, and think to yourself, 'is there anything else I can do while I'm down here?'"

And so, Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Little Jimmy Dickens—an icon, a legend, and a global ambassador to country music.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this tax compromise with strong reservations. This bill contains some highly objectionable provisions like unnecessary tax breaks for the wealthiest two percent of Americans and an estate tax modification that will only benefit the richest 6,600 households across the country. These two items alone will cost \$129 billion, which could alternatively be used for deficit reduction. However, I cannot in good conscience allow all of Rhode Island's businesses and families to suffer onerous tax increases at a time when jobs are scarce and people are pinching pennies just to put food on the table.

Providing tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires is both financially unjust and fiscally irresponsible given our current budgetary challenges, but this compromise protects 98 percent of Americans from significant tax increases set to take effect January 1, 2011, and has the potential to create the private sector jobs than can sustain an economic recovery.

This legislation extends the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for all income levels for two years, and prevents middle-income Rhode Islanders from being hit with higher tax rates under the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). It also contains several provisions that would assist families and stimulate our economic recovery, which has been frustratingly slow in Rhode Island as state unemployment has lingered at 12.5 percent.

This compromise includes a 13 month extension of Unemployment Insurance for the thousands of Rhode Islanders who are unable

to find work. I have spoken to countless constituents who want to work and are actively looking for employment, but they cannot find jobs. Cutting off their only means of support before the holidays would be an unconscionable dereliction of our responsibilities as members of Congress.

Businesses stand to benefit from a two-year extension of the Research and Development Tax Credit, incentives for clean energy production, and a new accelerated depreciation provision, which will allow a 100 percent write off of capital expenditures in 2011 and 50 percent in 2012. These incentives will ease the tax burden on Rhode Island companies seeking to expand their operations and grow their business, providing an extra boost to our local economy.

For Rhode Island families, this proposal includes a two-year increase of the full Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. Together, these provisions will provide ongoing tax cuts to 12 million lower income families. In addition, it fully extends the American Opportunity Tax Credit for two years to ensure more people can afford higher education.

Finally, this bill establishes a year-long tax holiday, providing \$112 billion in relief by cutting the Social Security payroll tax by two percent. Hard working Rhode Islanders could use a little extra income in their pockets—money that will ultimately be spent and pumped back into the economy to create more jobs. This temporary measure will have no negative impact on Social Security. That said, I will not allow this measure to be used as a springboard toward a permanent reduction of Social Security tax revenues that threatens the program's solvency and breaks the promise we have made to our seniors, veterans and disabled Americans.

Madam Speaker, this compromise is neither a perfect nor permanent solution to our economic challenges, but the cost of inaction is something I'm not willing to pass along to my constituents. If a better deal were possible, I would take it. In fact, I was proud to vote for middle class tax relief just two weeks ago, but my Republican colleagues rejected this common sense bill and it failed to pass the Senate. So now we are faced with a choice—accept this compromise or continue playing politics. The time for politics is over. We have less than two weeks before everybody's tax burden increases. I urge my colleagues to act before our time is up.

DIANE WATSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, it is with great pleasure and pride that I extend my best wishes and congratulations to Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, as she prepares to retire from the United States Congress.

A former elementary school teacher and school psychologist, Congresswoman WATSON has lectured at both California State Universities at Los Angeles and Long Beach. In 1975, she became the first African-American woman to be elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. She

led efforts to expand school integration and improve academic standards.

For almost 20 years, Congresswoman WATSON served in the California State Senate where she was the first African-American woman to serve in that body. She became a statewide and national advocate for health care, consumer protection, women, and children. During her tenure in Sacramento, she served as chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and as a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Congresswoman WATSON retired from the State Senate in 1999 when she was appointed by President William Jefferson Clinton to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia. As Ambassador to Micronesia, she represented our country in a magnificent way and has throughout her career demonstrated her mastery of foreign policy. She is truly an international leader. Dr. WATSON served in this capacity until 2001 when she returned to California to run for Congress in a special election after the death of Congressman Julian Dixon.

An exceptional public servant, Congresswoman WATSON has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to improving the human condition, throughout her long and distinguished career. A commonsense legislator and a passionate advocate for justice, she has masterfully used her vote and voice in the United States House of Representatives.

The Congressional Black Caucus honors and salutes Congresswoman WATSON for her legacy of service to the residents of California's 33rd Congressional District and to the global community. We will miss her in the halls of Congress and in the ranks of the CBC. We wish her well as she opens the next chapter of her life, we celebrate her leadership, and thank her for her friendship.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF CAROLINE DIAZ-
BARRIGA

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Caroline Diaz-Barriga for her contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Caroline has served as my field representative for Sumner and Robertson counties since joining my office in 2002. She had previously worked for my colleague Congressman Bob Clement when Robertson County was a part of his district. After he left the House to pursue other endeavors and Robertson County was added to my district, Caroline was a natural choice to run my new offices in Gallatin and Springfield. Her presence there has allowed me to better serve my constituents in the

northwestern part of my district over these last nine years. She is an integral player in both counties, attending city council sessions, civic club meetings, and Chamber of Commerce lunches.

In her many years in public service, Caroline has helped countless constituents who have come to my office for assistance. She has warmly received individuals, families and business owners looking for assistance with a federal agency. She has ensured hundreds of residents received the Social Security and veterans benefits they deserve. She has heard the concerns and touched the lives of many families in need of help, and she has always kept me informed of the needs of my constituents. At times, she has found herself playing unusual roles, especially during the too-frequent tornado outbreaks that have occurred in Middle Tennessee. When a tornado struck Gallatin in 2006, Caroline's office in the basement of the Sumner County Courthouse became a place of refuge as residents huddled together to comfort each other and share cell phones to check on loved ones' safety.

Madam Speaker, working with Caroline these past eight years has been a pleasure. No matter what challenges are thrown her way, she always manages to maintain a cheerful, positive attitude. She is a dedicated public servant, a great help to me and a pillar of the community.

Caroline, thank you for all of your help over the years. I wish you, David and your family all the best.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS ON FEDERAL LANDS ACT OF 2010

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that will significantly improve traffic safety and mobility in our national parks and other public recreational lands through increased funding and expanded authorities. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, the Transportation Infrastructure Improvements on Federal Lands Act of 2010.

Our national parks contain some of the most important and valuable historic, cultural, and natural treasures in our country. Millions of visitors flock to these parks every year. Yet safe access to and movement around these sites are compromised by severe and chronic underfunding and irrational provisions in current law.

The state of park transportation systems is deplorable. A recent assessment by the National Park Service, NPS, found that 90 percent of the park roads are in poor or fair condition. This compares with 14 percent for major rural roads in the overall federal-aid highways system. One person is killed or injured on a park road every 4.5 hours. If the National Park System were a State, it would rank 13th highest for road fatalities and injuries among all the States.

The NPS received \$240 million in FY2010 through the Park Roads and Parkways program to build, repair, and rehabilitate roads and bridges, less than a third of what the NPS

estimates it needs to provide safe and efficient access for visitors. My legislation would double the annual funding to accelerate the retirement of the growing road repair backlog now estimated at \$4.9 billion.

The poor state of park roads is not caused by insufficient funding alone. Under current law, Federal highway funds can be used for reconstruction and rehabilitation, but not for regular maintenance that would help extend the life of the roadway and preserve taxpayers' investment. Consequently, maintenance of roads and bridges is deferred until they have deteriorated to the point where they qualify for major rehabilitation or reconstruction, at far greater expense. Visitors are put at risk when they try to drive around potholes that pock our park roads. My legislation would make regular maintenance of park roads eligible for federal highway funding.

As our national parks become increasingly crowded, alternative transportation systems are being relied upon to a much greater extent to help move visitors around. Unfortunately, that program is also severely underfunded. A third major focus of my bill would raise the annual funding level for the Federal public lands transit program from the current \$24 million to \$100 million, with 60 percent of it being targeted for qualified projects in national parks.

Visitors from throughout our country and around the world are discovering the natural, cultural, and historic wonders that are embodied in our national parks. Their experience should not be diminished, and their safety certainly should not be placed at risk, while they visit our national parks. I urge you to join me in sponsoring this legislation to improve visitor safety and enjoyment of our parks through improved maintenance and management of its transportation systems.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a co-sponsor and strong supporter of H. Res. 1765 because this resolution affirms the imperative for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Palestinian efforts to pursue declarations or recognitions of statehood outside of the peace process are unacceptable. This threatens compromise and a peaceful solution.

I thank Chairman BERMAN for offering this important resolution and my colleagues in the House for calling on Palestinian leaders to cease all efforts at circumventing the negotiation process. Only through this direct Israel-Palestinian dialogue can we move forward to compromise and lasting peace. Unilateral declarations do not support this process, but rather threaten peace and deepen conflicts.

It is time to focus on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Any attempts to bypass negotiations threaten the security and survival of the State of Israel, and the creation of a viable and democratic Palestinian state.

I firmly believe that a lasting compromise can be reached through direct negotiations

and compromise. That is the way forward for Israelis, Palestinians, and the United States. Secretary of State Clinton had it right when she noted that "it is only a negotiated agreement between the parties that will be sustainable."

That is why I strongly oppose any Palestinian efforts to unilaterally declare statehood and abandon efforts for a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Today, I am pleased that there is bipartisan agreement that the House of Representatives must do everything in our power to reaffirm the need for a peace process and to move these talks forward toward a lasting solution.

CONGRATULATING MIDWAY USA

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating MidwayUSA for receiving the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. Earlier this week representatives from MidwayUSA traveled to Washington, DC, to accept the award.

MidwayUSA is a family-owned, catalog/Internet-based retail merchant that offers shooting, reloading, gunsmithing, and hunting products. Retail customers represent 90 percent of the firm's total business at its two Columbia, Missouri locations, with dealers and international customers making up the remaining 10 percent. More than 95,000 different products from more than 700 vendors are distributed by the company, which employs 243 full-time and 100 part-time workers.

Named after Malcolm Baldrige, the 26th Secretary of Commerce, the Baldrige Award was established by Congress in 1987 to enhance the competitiveness and performance of U.S. businesses. The award promotes excellence in organizational performance, recognizes the achievements and results of U.S. organizations, and publicizes successful performance strategies. The award recipients were selected from a field of 70 applicants. All of the applicants were evaluated rigorously by an independent board of examiners in seven areas: leadership; strategic planning; customer focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; workforce focus; process management; and results. The evaluation process for each of the recipients included about 1,000 hours of review and an on-site visit by a team of examiners to clarify questions and verify information in the applications. Since 1988, 80 organizations have received Baldrige Awards. I am extremely proud that MidwayUSA has joined this exclusive list.

Small businesses create jobs and spur economic growth, and I am extremely proud that Columbia's MidwayUSA has been recognized for productivity and quality at a time when our economy is struggling. This kind of success is yet another example of the key role that Missouri's small businesses play in the state and national economies.

I would like to take this time to commend MidwayUSA for all their hard work, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing MidwayUSA for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF KURT CZARNOWSKI FOR HIS 34 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kurt Czarnowski in recognition of his 34 years of dedicated public service with the Social Security Administration.

Kurt was raised in the town of Weston, Massachusetts, by his proud parents Edward and Alisca Czarnowski and for the past 27 years, he has lived in Norfolk, Massachusetts, with his wife Anne, their daughter Amy, and son Brian.

Kurt graduated from Hamilton College earning a B.A. degree and then worked as a substitute teacher while pursuing his education, earning a Master's degree in Public Administration at Northeastern University.

Kurt began his Social Security Administration career in 1976 as a Claims Representative in Framingham, Massachusetts. He was selected for the agency's Management Intern Program in 1979 and subsequently worked his way through the management ranks, serving as Programs Analyst, District Manager, Deputy Assistant Regional Commissioner, and Area Director. After holding a number of key positions in the area of public relations, Kurt became the Regional Communications Director in May 2000.

When reflecting on a lifetime of good works, Kurt counts as his greatest achievements his 38 years of marriage to his wife Anne and raising their two children, Amy and Brian, as well as his 34 years of public service with the Social Security Administration.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take to the floor of the House today to join with his family, friends and contemporaries to thank Kurt Czarnowski for his dedicated service to the United States of America. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kurt Czarnowski for his dedicated public service.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF JULIE EUBANK

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julie Eubank for her contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today I would like to single out Julie Eubank, my Chief of Staff in Washington.

Julie attended high school in Smyrna and attended my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University. She graduated with a degree

in Elementary Education, but one fateful internship with my Murfreesboro office changed her course forever. She was drawn into politics and, with few interruptions, Julie has been a member of my team ever since. She has worn many hats in her time with my office. She began as an intern in 2002 and since then has served as my scheduler and executive assistant, communications director, and as the member services coordinator for the Committee on Science and Technology. Undoubtedly, her training as a teacher of small children helped her in each task too, whether it was coordinating events, working with reporters or herding cats on the Committee. Her Tennessee roots have helped keep her grounded and her respect and dedication to her community has been apparent throughout.

In October 2009, Julie became Chief of Staff to my Washington office. It's a position that requires enormous responsibility and trust, and Julie took to the job easily.

Madam Speaker, Julie is exactly the kind of lieutenant you'd want to have in your foxhole. She can take a tough assignment, turn on a dime and put it into action. She is a natural as a manager and mentor and has the absolute devotion of my staff. She has good political instincts, which have always been appreciated. Under pressure, she keeps up a great presence of mind and sense of humor. And apparently, quick reflexes. (As The Tennessean was proud to report after a false-alarm lockdown in Rayburn House Office Building, Julie Eubank "doesn't mess around.")

All of her qualities have been put to the test during her time as my Chief of Staff. She has helped the office shift gears from preparing for a reelection fight to transitioning into retirement. She has been there through difficult floor fights and popped champagne after hard-won victories.

Madam Speaker, I have been honored that Julie has dedicated so much of her professional career—so far—to me and my constituents. My colleagues in Tennessee and I are all extremely proud of her accomplishments. I look forward to following her next endeavors.

Julie, I can't thank you enough for your loyalty through the years. I wish you all the best.

H. RES. 1646 CELEBRATING THE
NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the dedicated commitment of the Library of Congress to the promotion of reading through its sponsorship of the National Book Festival. I warmly commend Representative DANIEL LUNGREN for taking the initiative to introduce H. Res. 1646.

The National Book Festival occurred on September 25, 2010, in Washington, DC. President Obama and Michelle Obama served as honorary chairs for the important event. Nearly one million people over the past decade have attended. This year, approximately 150,000 bibliophiles gathered together to meet the 70 best-selling authors in attendance.

I am proud that the New York State Library, New York Council for the Humanities and the Empire State Center for the Book partnered

together to display New York's rich literary heritage in the Pavilion of the States at the National Book Festival. New York author, Rebecca Stead, also autographed copies of her 2010 Newbery Award-winning book, *When You Reach Me*. New York's involvement at the mall demonstrated a common commitment with the Library of Congress in encouraging the population to read.

Fostering the joy of reading is a valuable goal. Living in the digital age does not mean we have forgotten the pleasure of reading the printed text. Reading broadens our minds to new possibilities, new worlds, new people and new ideas. The future is based on our ability to read, digest information and pioneer innovative ideas. Formal education in the classroom should be supplemented by self-education.

Urging more people to read also improves our literacy rate. A literate population is necessary to guarantee greater educational opportunities, foster life-long learning, jobs, and underpins our democracy because elected officials depend on an informed citizenry to make decisions.

I admire and am thankful of the efforts made by the Library of Congress to promote the wonder of words.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, no country has done more than the United States to advance the cause of Palestinian statehood.

We have done so in recognition of Palestinian aspirations for a brighter and more stable future as well as Israel's desire for a secure and peaceful coexistence with its neighbors.

As one of the largest grantors of Palestinian aid, we have worked to ensure that a future Palestinian state has the political, economic and social infrastructure to support a stable functioning democracy.

But our efforts have been predicated on the Palestinians' own internationally-witnessed commitments to seek a negotiated solution to achieve a two-state peace agreement. These commitments served at the core of the 1991 Madrid conference, and were codified in the 1993 Oslo Accords, the 2003 Roadmap for Peace, the 2007 Annapolis declaration, two UN Security Council resolutions sponsored by the Bush Administration in 2002 and 2008, and reaffirmed at the 2010 summit brokered by President Obama.

It is only through direct negotiations that the parties can resolve the core issues of borders, water, refugees, Jerusalem, and the security arrangements and produce an agreement that ends the conflict and sustains a viable independent Palestinian state.

For all who complain that Israeli settlement construction is the primary obstacle to the peace talks, the reality is that Israeli leaders have time and again shown bold leadership to make difficult concessions on this issue and others for the sake of peace. The Israeli government's recent 10-month settlement morato-

rium and its serious consideration of a further extension are proof that settlements are not the stumbling block keeping us from direct talks.

Rather, it is the Palestinian leadership's unwillingness to make tough choices that has sidelined the process. And if anything, a unilateral drive to statehood is chilling evidence.

A strategy to bypass the negotiations process and unilaterally declare Palestinian statehood will turn the clock backward, not forward. It is a reckless tactic that threatens to intensify the conflict and alienate the United States, which by law would be prohibited from providing aid to an independent Palestinian State that does not, among other conditions, have a full and normal relationship with Israel.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and call on others in the international community to pressure the Palestinian leadership to demonstrate their dedication to achieving statehood by returning to the negotiating table.

HONORING MRS. TERRI ALFORD

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mrs. Terri Alford to the U.S. House of Representatives. For 16 years Mrs. Alford has approached her service to the Congress with a professionalism, dedication, and joy that has inspired hundreds of staff and interns and undoubtedly improved the institution of Congress itself. Mrs. Alford's patriotism, love of the arts, and good humor enlivened the U.S. House of Representatives, and her infectious enthusiasm and good nature were a gift for all who had the pleasure of working with her. As Mrs. Alford prepares for retirement to spend more time with her husband, children, and grandchildren, we thank her for her dedicated service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 631 on, H.R. 5446, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Florida Avenue in Cocoa, Florida, as the "Harry T. and Harriette Moore Post Office", I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 632 on, H. Res. 1759, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Expressing support for designation of January 23rd as "Ed Roberts Day", I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 633 on, S. Con. Res. 72, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, A concurrent resolution recognizing the 45th anniversary of the White

House Fellows Program, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 634 on, H.R. 6205, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, "Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office", I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 635 on, H. Res. 1764, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2965, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 636 on, H. Res. 1761, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Congratulating Auburn University quarterback and College Park, Georgia, native Cameron Newton on winning the 2010 Heisman Trophy for being the most outstanding college football player in the United States, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 637 on, H. Res. 1743, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, Congratulating Gerda Weissmann Klein on being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 638 on, H.R. 2965, On Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment, Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF MICHAEL TERRY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Terry for his contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out Mike Terry, my field representative and political advisor and a dedicated public servant.

Mike joined my staff in 1993 after serving as a clerk for the Tennessee State Senate. He brought to the position good political acumen, a keen understanding of Middle Tennessee's values, and a strong network of good relationships across the state. More and more, he has become a true heavyweight in the state's political scene.

He has worked with the business community to ensure my office does all it can to nur-

ture economic growth and facilitate job creation. He has been my liaison with local governments and Chambers of Commerce. He has worked hard, logged miles with me in every corner of the Sixth Congressional District, and led major meetings and events in all 15 counties. He knows what's happening on the ground in every community, and he has been my eyes and ears to let me know how folks at home feel about what's going on in Washington.

Mike is loyal, talented and possesses excellent judgment. I have been extremely lucky to keep him on the team for the better part of two decades, and I have appreciated his dedication and friendship over the years. My staff and I have enjoyed hearing about his scuba diving adventures, his love of virtually every comedy made in the 1980s, and the trials and triumphs of his beloved Tennessee Vols.

Madam Speaker, I could not have accomplished half of what I did without Mike's hard work. Mike, thank you for all your help and loyalty over these many years. I wish you and Lisa all the best.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 1765, a resolution supporting a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and condemning unilateral declarations of a Palestinian state. It is a one-sided resolution that advocates for an approach that would prevent the very two-state solution it advocates.

H. Res. 1765 rightly expresses support for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As a strong proponent of peace and reconciliation, I believe that true long-term stability and security for Israel depends upon peaceful coexistence with its Palestinian neighbors. Indeed, an imposed solution will not bring either side closer to the security, peace and coexistence that have been elusive for the last sixty-plus years.

This resolution condemns the unilateral actions recently taken by the Palestinian Authority to seek recognition of a Palestinian state within 1967 borders. Yet it mentions nothing of the continued settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem that led to the breakdown in negotiations. While I do not support the actions taken by the Palestinian Authority, their efforts are a direct result of failed negotiations and continued settlement building that threaten the two-state solution.

If we only hold one side accountable, good faith negotiations cannot proceed. A just solution to this conflict requires recognition that negotiations will not be successful as long as the United States allows settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem to continue. We cannot claim to be acting in Israel's best interest while turning a blind eye to actions that actively undermine its security.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to the region. I have spoken to Israelis and Palestinians. Most of them want peace and they have been wait-

ing too long for it. The political process and realities on the ground do not create conditions that are conducive to making peace a reality.

True support of a just, negotiated solution requires us to hold both sides accountable. This resolution fails to do that. I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,878,837,351,150.62.

On January 6th, 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 \$3,240,411,604,856.82 so far this Congress.

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

IN FURTHER RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF THE STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, in my 44 years serving as a clerk, Administrator, Member, and finally Chairman of what is now the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I have had the opportunity to work with some of the finest staff on Capitol Hill.

Whether they are drafting legislation and managing hearings, or answering the phones and copying documents, each member of the staff makes a vital contribution to the success of the Committee.

As my term as Chairman comes to a close, I would like to take a few moments to recognize these dedicated professionals as they move on to new challenges and opportunities.

Stacie Soumbeniotis Tiongson has served on this Committee for over 11 years, first as the Staff Director of the Aviation Subcommittee and then as Deputy Chief Counsel of the full Committee. As Staff Director of the Subcommittee, Stacie was responsible for managing all legislation, hearings, markups and all other activities covering civil aviation. She has been intimately involved in the planning and drafting of several landmark aviation bills, including the Aviation and Transportation Security Act of 2001 and the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act to secure our skies after the September 11th terrorist attacks.

During the last two years, as Deputy Chief Counsel, she participated in the oversight and management of all activities of the Committee and its six Subcommittees, focusing on issues related to highways, aviation, rail, Coast Guard, and economic development, as well as advising on legal and legislative issues regarding Committee jurisdiction.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to Jen Walsh for her six years of service as Legislative Assistant to the Committee. Jen's keen intellect and professionalism, combined with her warmth and ever-present smile, have served me and all of the Committee members, both Democrats and Republicans, well over the years. I am especially grateful for her service as my liaison with the staff of the Democratic Members of the Committee. Jen has shown a remarkable ability to communicate complex subject matter in an understandable format to the Members, and has been invaluable in ensuring that all the Members and staff of the Committee are well prepared and informed to carry out the responsibilities for which we serve. She is a shining example of the hard-working professionals that serve, often thanklessly, behind-the-scenes to ensure that this Committee and this Congress are able to meet the needs of the Nation.

Bradley Watson has served with the Committee since the end of the 110th Congress. As a Staff Assistant, he has managed the front office with efficiency and professionalism. He has worked diligently in many areas under the Committee jurisdiction and has been a steadfast presence coordinating Committee mark-ups and hearings. Bradley has been a versatile contributor and his research and database abilities have served the Committee well.

Carson Gorecki, a fellow native of Minnesota, served as a Staff Assistant with the Full Committee during the end of this 111th Congress. Starting his career with the Committee as an intern, he was soon hired full-time. Over the course of his time here, he has developed a deep grasp and appreciation of transportation issues and legislation.

Carson played a key role in the production of the monthly report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, material that I consider immensely helpful to me and other Members. His hard work and humor were both welcome additions to the staff, and I express my utmost gratitude for his contribution.

John-Paul C. Hayworth is an outstanding member of the Oversight and Investigations staff of the Committee. His integrity, energy, and innovative ideas have been a great asset to the Committee and to my work.

Mr. Hayworth's time on the staff has proven his zeal for public service. His responsibilities have enhanced his analytical skills to the benefit of us all. Recently, he concurrently assumed responsibilities with the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee. Chair ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and the staff of the Subcommittee have found him to be calm and collected, but always with a vibrant sense of humor and a smile, even in the unpredictable environment of the House.

Laurie Bertenthal has been a valued staff member of the Committee for nearly four years. Laurie started as a Staff Assistant for the Oversight and Investigations staff, where she supported groundbreaking Committee investigations, including problems with the U.S. Coast Guard's Deepwater Acquisition program, and Southwest Airlines' "cozy" relationship with the Federal Aviation Administration.

In 2008, Laurie became an integral member of the Aviation Subcommittee, first as Legislative Assistant, and progressed to Professional Staff. Laurie has worked on many important matters pertaining to reauthorization of the

FAA and National Transportation Safety Board. Additionally, Laurie played a key role in the recently-enacted Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010, P.L. 111-216. Laurie employed her strong research and legislative drafting skills to craft a provision that will create a pilot records database, which will allow airlines to efficiently access pilot applicant records and improve the safety of the flying public.

Jeff Schnobrich has served the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for two years, first as an intern, later with the full Committee staff, and finally as a Staff Assistant with the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

Jeff has shown himself to be a detail-oriented, dedicated member of my staff. From the beginning, he showed an appreciation for the importance of an effective transportation system to the economic vitality of America. He soon became versed in the intricacies of both Federal transportation policy and Congressional procedures and processes. During his time, he helped lead the Committee's effort to establish a database of Member-designated projects, ensuring transparency and accountability. In all his tasks, he has been efficient, reliable, and a pleasure to work with. I thank Jeff for his years of service and wish him the best.

Rose M. Hamlin has been a stalwart on the Committee staff for 19 years.

She began her service with the Subcommittee on Water Resources where she established herself as a dedicated and effective office manager. In her years of working on the Committee, she concurrently worked on Public Buildings, Coast Guard, and Oversight and Investigations.

Ms. Hamlin is now the Office Manager of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. She has played an instrumental role in the passage of several key pieces of legislation, coordinated dozens of hearings and markups, and has ensured that I and members of the Committee staff remain up-to-date on issues under the Subcommittee's jurisdiction.

Although his time with the Committee has been short, Lee Matsos has done an admirable job as Staff Assistant for the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. Lee's strong background in writing and editing allowed him to contribute to the Committee's national media coverage and concisely summarize the critical weekly news within the Water Resources jurisdiction for the Committee Membership. Lee also served as an able point of contact for witnesses testifying at the Subcommittee's September 30th hearing on the Impact of Green Infrastructure.

In addition, Lee managed the database content and the filing of project requests for the expansive Water Resources Development Act of 2010. He connected constituents to the legislative staff in an eloquent and professional manner. It is clear that Lee has a bright future ahead of him, and we have been lucky to have him on our staff.

Madam Speaker, the essence of the legislative process is collaboration. Each individual member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure staff has played a vital role in the work of the Committee these past four years, and, through collaboration and hard work, has made this Committee the most productive on Capitol Hill.

I wish them all much success in whatever the future brings.

TRIBUTE ON THE BIRTH OF
HARRISON CLAY LAVENDER

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Larry Lavender and his wife Kathryn on the birth of their new son, Mr. Harrison Clay Lavender. Harrison was born on December 16, 2010, at 11:14 in the morning.

I am excited for this new blessing to the Lavender family and wish them all the best.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
REAUTHORIZATION,
AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chair, although I support extending lower taxes for the working and middle class and reauthorizing unemployment benefits, I voted against the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (H.R. 4853) because it pays too high a price in terms of tax cuts for the rich. The disconnect between the needs of the country and the wealth of a few was just too much for me to bear.

As the economy recovers, I think it is important to make sure that the working people of America keep as much of their hard-earned dollars as possible. For that reason, I am very happy that this bill extended tax cuts targeted for the middle and working class. The bill helps families make ends meet and provides a tremendous boost to our economy.

Similarly, reauthorizing unemployment benefits provides stability and certainty for those hardest hit by the recession. Moreover, the unemployed will spend their benefits, which spread throughout their communities and help the entire economy. Low-income tax credits, refundable child tax credits, and college tuition credits in this bill all have the same effect. They invest in our people and stimulate the economy.

Unfortunately, the tax policies forced on us by Republicans will have the opposite effect. We have been there before. I vividly remember when the Bush administration slammed huge tax cuts through Congress. They promised the economy would grow and deficits would never appear. Of course, the opposite occurred. The working and middle class earned less, the wealthy took home more and the deficit exploded, erasing the surplus created under President Clinton.

I categorically oppose a return to Republican tax policies that benefit only the rich at the expense of the Nation. The elections told us that Americans are tired of giveaways to Wall Street and CEOs. But that is exactly what these tax cuts represent. Under the bill passed last night, 40,000 of the wealthiest families in America will save \$25 billion on estate taxes compared to current law. Couples earning over \$250,000 keep an extra \$116 billion over two years. Each billion equals one thousand millions. Just think of all the deficit reduction and extended unemployment benefits that could pay for.

When we are leaving millions of unemployed people empty handed a week before Christmas, it is outrageous to push our country further into debt just to give unnecessary tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. I simply could not support such a stark contrast in our priorities.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF SEAN GILLILAND

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sean Gilliland for his contributions to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

For more than 15 years, Sean Gilliland has been a dedicated and loyal field representative in my Murfreesboro office. He has spent countless hours traveling the district with me and attending parades, open meetings and events in every corner of the district. Sean works tirelessly on behalf of Middle Tennessee's veterans and their families, ensuring they receive the benefits and assistance they deserve, and helping them obtain the medals they earned during their service to our country. Over the years, Sean has helped me send the best and brightest young men and women to our nation's military service academies, filled in for me when my duties in Washington prevented me from attending an event or meeting, and enabled me to better represent the needs and interests of the people of the Sixth District.

Sean's career has been one of service, whether at my office or in the community. He serves on the Board of Directors of Main Street, Leadership Rutherford, the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra, the Rutherford County Adult Activity Center, and others. He has also donated his time to many other civic committees, and is deeply involved in his church. It is fitting that Sean will leave government service to enter a new kind of public

service in the administration of the Primary Care and Hope Clinic, a faith-based non-profit that provides health care to the uninsured.

Madam Speaker, Sean is a loving father, a dedicated husband and an all-around good person. I know that my busy weekend schedules in Tennessee have led him to spend some Independence Day and other holiday celebrations at official functions with me rather than with his wife, Anne, and daughter, Molly. I appreciate the sacrifices they have made over the years.

Sean, thank you for all your help and dedication over these many years. I wish you, Anne and Molly all the best.

BRAZIL HARBORS AMERICAN
DAUGHTER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Brazil is at it again. We thought they learned their lesson in the case of Sean Goldman, but they have not—as of 2009, there were still over 50 kidnapped children in Brazil, including Nicole Pate, the daughter of my constituent, Marty Pate.

I have come to this floor before to talk about the case of my constituent, Marty Pate. Marty lives in Crosby, Texas, and has not seen his daughter, Nicole, in 4 years. Her mother, Monica, is a native of Brazil. In 2006, she took Nicole on a trip to Brazil and never came back.

Legal documents from Texas give Marty joint custody, and the Hague Convention requires Brazil to work out visitation for Marty. Marty is not asking for his daughter to be returned—though it is well within his rights to ask for this. He is just asking to see his daughter and have her visit family in the United States.

Marty has gone above and beyond in trying to work with the government of Brazil. He has even offered to drop the charges pending against his ex-wife if it would make a visit with Nicole easier. He has spent over \$10,000 of his own money flying to and from Brazil countless times to see Nicole.

But Brazilian officials have continued to stonewall and ignore their obligations under the Hague Convention. They have allowed Nicole's mother to make a mockery of the Hague process, to file meaningless allegations and attempt to delay the process. So far, it's working. The Government of Brazil has let this case linger for over a year without resolution.

A child's welfare hangs in the balance. Nicole Pate is caught between two worlds—living with her mother in Brazil and not allowed to see her father or her siblings back in the United States. But officials in Brazil don't seem to care. They are taking their sweet time in dealing with this case. In August, it was decided that the case would go before a Federal judge. It is now December and we still don't have a court date.

Madam Speaker, there is a reason that the State Department has labeled Brazil a non-compliant country when it comes to honoring the Hague Convention. It seems that Brazil would rather sign onto treaties and gain all the benefits that come with that—but they don't

care about holding up their end of the bargain. The State Department needs to take aggressive action to pressure Brazil into acting with haste when determining the fates of American children. There is no excuse for Brazil to drag their feet while little Nicole Pate sits and wonders why she can't see her daddy.

Even worse is that the behavior of Brazil and other non-compliant Hague countries seems to have no impact on our foreign policy in relation to these countries. We still trade with them, we still send them millions in foreign aid each year, and these countries still violate their treaty obligations. Or in the case of Brazil, become a haven for kidnapped American children.

That is why in the 112th Congress I intend to introduce a bill that will require Congress to vote on foreign aid by country—instead of in one, giant package. The American people should be able to see where we send foreign aid money, and for what purpose. And furthermore, it will allow Congress to hold countries accountable to receiving that money.

It's time for the Government of Brazil to begin honoring their obligations under the Hague Convention. It's time for the State Department to be more aggressive in fighting for kidnapped American children around the world.

And it's time for Marty Pate to be reunited with his kidnapped daughter, Nicole.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENFORCING
ORDERS AND REDUCING
CUSTOMS EVASION (ENFORCE)
ACT OF 2010

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, today, joined by Representatives WALTER JONES and MARK CRITZ, I introduce the Enforcing Orders and Reducing Customs Evasion Act, or the ENFORCE Act. This legislation is critical to improving our ability to enforce trade laws.

This bill is about protecting American businesses and the workers that keep those businesses thriving.

Unfortunately, under current law, too many foreign producers flout our trade laws. Too many ship mislabeled goods to the U.S. to avoid paying legally imposed anti-dumping or countervailing duties. And they do this with impunity, rarely paying a price for their crimes.

Many of these fraudsters even have websites advertising how, for a fee, they can help you avoid paying the duties legally owed the United States. In November, my colleague Senator WYDEN of Oregon, published a useful report identifying 12 such Chinese companies.

Most of these companies' evasion schemes involve illegal transshipment through a third country and falsified country-of-origin certificates for Chinese products destined for the United States and other export markets.

This dishonest conduct robs the American people and our federal coffers of money rightly owed. But perhaps more importantly, it gives these deceitful actors an advantage over American businesses. It has forced hundreds of businesses, in my district and others, to permanently close their doors.

Too many businesses like Michel's Furniture in Lynwood, California, in my own district, have shut their doors because through duty evasion, foreign products receive an unfair and illegal price advantage over our home-grown, American products.

That is why I am proud to introduce the bipartisan ENFORCE Act.

The ENFORCE Act strengthens the ability of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, CBP, to combat duty evasion by foreign manufacturers. For the first time, domestic producers will have the opportunity to formally petition CBP to investigate possible anti-dumping and countervailing duty evasions.

The ENFORCE Act requires CBP to initiate an investigation and to make timely preliminary and final determinations as to whether an importer engaged (or is engaging) in evasion. No longer will domestic producers wait helplessly by, hoping that CBP will act to vindicate their rights. The bill requires CBP to act and then publicly report on its findings within prescribed timeframes.

Finally, foreign violators will be held accountable for the damage they do to American businesses, workers, and our economy as a whole.

American businesses and workers can compete and win against products from anywhere in the world—if we have a level playing field.

The ENFORCE Act will help create that level playing field, supporting U.S. businesses and their employees.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan, pro-business, pro-American bill.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL
ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker I rise in support of H.R. 2965, Repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell". This bill will allow thousands of Americans who have wanted the chance to serve their country openly and freely an opportunity to do so. The repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell is the right thing to do morally as a country. Military personnel, who risk their lives on a daily basis so that we can enjoy all the freedoms America has to offer, should not be denied the ability to serve based upon their sexual orientation. Equality is not a privilege, it is a right and repealing this law is a huge step in that direction.

At a time when our country is fighting two wars we should support those Americans whom fight for our liberties and freedoms. Unfortunately, DADT prevents thousands from doing so which makes no sense at all. The Pentagon's report from last month indicated a majority of our military soldiers and leaders support a repeal of DADT and I believe we should listen to them and honor what our country really stands for which is freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF JOE PATTERSON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Joe Patterson for his contributions to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Joe Patterson joined my staff in 2000. Incredibly, that makes him one of the newest members of the team in Murfreesboro. It is a joke among my staff that even with a decade of dedicated public service under his belt, Joe is still the low man on the totem pole in my hometown office.

All joking aside, Joe's depth of experience overshadows his seniority. In addition to his work as my field representative and advocate for seniors, persons with disabilities, and those in need of housing assistance, Joe also has the responsibility of helping people who urgently need passports or visas on short notice. Thousands of Sixth District residents might not have been able to attend a loved one's funeral, take a business trip or enjoy a hastily-planned honeymoon if not for his work expediting their passports. Grateful constituents have sent him best wishes from sandy beaches on six continents—he's only waiting on Antarctica.

Joe is an incredibly hard worker. He has a great rapport with the constituents he works with and has deep roots in the community. Stories of his cows getting through fences on his property and roaming all over Cannon County have been the subject of my annual Christmas letters over the years. What has never been publicly recognized until now is Joe's uncanny knowledge of trivial information. Whether the topic is cuisine or the latest hi-tech gadget, Joe can always bring some new and interesting tidbit to the conversation.

An enthusiastic student of aeronautics, Joe has worked with NASA and local school districts to enable teachers in Middle Tennessee to attend Space Shuttle launches at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The once-in-a-lifetime experience and lesson plans brought back to the classrooms have been a welcome addition to schools across my district. This worthwhile endeavor would not have been possible without Joe's passion for the subject and dedication to the project.

Madam Speaker, Joe has been an integral part of my staff and an invaluable help to the people of the Sixth District of Tennessee. I wish him, his wife, Lori, and their daughter, Kyla, all the best in the future.

REMARKS TO THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, it has been a true privilege for Betty Ann and me to represent Tennessee's 8th district in this chamber for the past 22 years, and we will always be grateful to the people of west and middle Tennessee who have given us the chance to do so. We now look forward to the transition from our role in Congress to that of private citizens, often said to be the highest office in our country.

Following the Constitutional Convention, Madam Speaker, a citizen asked Benjamin Franklin what that important body had created, and he replied, "A republic, if you can keep it." At the heart of this governmental model, public officials represent first and foremost the people who elect them.

I worry that our government is in danger of becoming more of a parliamentary system, where elected officials represent first and foremost their political parties. That is not what our founding fathers intended when they established this great nation, and it is not the right approach for our nation going forward.

The American people, by and large, do not reside in the extreme left wing or in the extreme right wing. They are solution-minded citizens who want their elected representatives to work together to address the problems that face us as Americans, not as Democrats or Republicans.

Unfortunately, the current political system, especially following decades of partisan gerrymandering with more to come in the year ahead, does little to incentivize such cooperation. Consequently, the political center in our representative government has been decimated, resulting in a great disservice to the American people.

Many of us certainly understand and share the angst the American people feel in a time of economic uncertainty, two wars, a seemingly insurmountable federal debt and ongoing concerns over homeland security.

These are complex problems that cannot be solved with bumper-sticker solutions, oversimplified soundbites and combative rhetoric. They require cooperation among thoughtful individuals who will put their district and country first.

To address these problems and restore the faith in our republic, those inside and outside government must be willing to extend to one who disagrees the same purity of motive and intellectual honesty one claims for oneself.

That is necessary, Madam Speaker, if we are to keep our republic.

HONORING ABRAHAM "ABE"
THOMPSON

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Abraham "Abe" Thompson, who passed away on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at the age of 94.

Abe served honorably during World War II as an officer of the United States Army Air Force in the 747th Squadron of the 456th Heavy Bombardment Group, stationed in Stornara, Italy. Abe flew 49 missions before being shot down on his 50th over Germany. The pilot managed to glide the plane into Switzerland, where the crew parachuted and were subsequently interned. Abe escaped into France after 73 days and made his way to American forces in Lyon.

After he was discharged, Abe raised his family in Yonkers, NY. He then moved to Huntington in the 1970s, after which he earned his law degree at the age of 73. He was an active member of the community, including serving as president of the local AARP chapter as well as a founding member and serving as Commander of the Nassau/Suffolk Long Island Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

Abe was the loving husband of the late Bertha Gordon Thompson; devoted companion of Rita DeLuise and her family; adored father of Carole and Steven Roberts, Robert and Rosalie Thompson, and the late Phyllis Gordon; the cherished grandfather of Jennifer and Michael, Adam, Alison and Clark, and Jill and Jim; and the loving great-grandfather of Ned and Grace.

I am so proud that Abe was a member of the 2nd District of New York and I know that he will be missed by the many people whose lives he impacted.

FAREWELL REMARKS

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in just a few short weeks, my 8th term as Representative for the Fourth Congressional District of Kansas will come to an end, and I want to thank my constituents for giving me the opportunity to serve them these past 16 years. It has been a profound honor to represent Kansas in our Nation's Capital and to be a Member of this Institution.

Much has changed since I first walked onto the House floor in January 1995 following the historic Republican Revolution of 1994. We have witnessed the impeachment of a U.S. president, four years of balanced budgets, the end and beginning of a new millennium, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, an ongoing global war against terror, and the collapse of established financial and business institutions world-wide.

Other things have changed very little. We are still fighting against run-away federal deficit spending. The false notion that new government programs will solve our greatest problems continues to plague Washington despite attempts at cutting waste.

Thanks to the Tea Party movement, a new wave of fiscally conservative Representatives will take office in January, and I am hopeful we will see renewed progress in putting Washington on a diet.

One of the privileges of serving Kansas has been to achieve real results for our communities. During my Congressional tenure, we were successful in repealing the Wright amendment to help lower air fares, return millions of tax dollars back to Kansas to help build dozens of important infrastructure

projects, protect the rights of the unborn through the 1998 Tiaht amendment, secure over \$90 million in funding for the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University and place a statue of General Dwight D. Eisenhower in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda where it will remain permanently.

Working with Sen. BROWNBACK and Sen. ROBERTS, we successfully fought back attempts to procure a European refueling tanker and have made the case for purchasing an American tanker made by an American company with American workers. It is my continued hope that the Air Force will make the right decision and select the KC-767 that will employ thousands of skilled engineers and workers in Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, as I reflect on my service in the House, I want to take this opportunity to thank my wife, Vicki, and my children who have supported me and walked with me on this 16-year journey. Serving in Congress is often most difficult on a member's family. We purposefully chose to serve these 16 years together. My wife and children were part of every term. I was blessed to have them with me to roam the marble halls of Congress, meet America's leaders, and get to know the citizens we served. Watching history unfold with my family by my side gave me many memories I will forever cherish.

Throughout my time as a Member of Congress, I have remembered my family is a gift from God and will always be my greatest accomplishment. Their work on numerous projects throughout Kansas has made our state and country a better place to live, and their love and encouragement continue to inspire me. I am so glad to be finishing this chapter of my life with Vicki, Jessica and John by my side, and we would give anything if Luke were here, too.

Many of the difficult tasks here in Congress could not be done without the hard work of staff. I have been blessed with committed staffers who stood with me as I fought for our Kansas values and a limited government.

My staff, past and present, worked tirelessly, not only for me, but for the people of Kansas and for our country.

Robert Noland has been with me since day one. He has been a loyal and faithful friend and has shown tremendous wisdom in managing my district office. I will never forget his years of hard work and dedication to me and to our state.

Jeff Kahrs has been with me since my first term in office, and I am grateful for his friendship, leadership and counsel over the years. His perception and vision have helped me focus on what's important.

Connie Voss has also been with me since my first term in office. Connie and her husband Joe have been a gift from God to Vicki and me throughout the years, and we deeply appreciate their prayer and faithful support.

Amy Claire Brusck has been with me for nearly 11 years and has served with stellar performance providing leadership on numerous legislative initiatives in my Washington office. Her knowledge of how Capital Hill works has helped me navigate complex legislative and political issues.

Linda Arensdorf has been on my official staff for more than 10 years and has been instrumental in helping manage the district office and working to make sure our constituent service projects are carried out with excellence.

Sam Sackett has also served on my staff for more than a decade and has contributed to several legislative initiatives in Washington and has helped me effectively and clearly communicate my message across the state of Kansas.

Melissa James has been responsible for managing my appointments and has done a tremendous job keeping impeccable schedules. Melissa's attention to detail and her dedication to her job have played an important role in making sure I manage my time wisely.

Chuck Knapp has played a critical role advising me on numerous issues related to policies and district matters. I appreciate his friendship and value his advice that has helped me better serve my constituents.

Josh Bell has served on my staff in several important roles, including as part of my legislative team in Washington as well as in my district office managing special projects for constituents. His faithful dedication and hard work have served me well for many years.

Jeremy Wisdom has provided valuable assistance to countless veterans and other constituents needing help with a federal agency. His knowledge of the federal system and thoughtful approach to problem solving has helped resolve numerous constituent problems.

Jim Richardson has a thorough knowledge of military and defense issues that has been an enormous asset to my legislative office. He has provided critical insight and a thoughtful approach to helping me deal with issues related to our national defense.

Laurel Scott has greeted thousands of Kansans visiting my Washington office over the years. Her warm smile, welcoming personality, and prayers for my family have meant so much to Vicki and me.

Wendy Knox has helped me disseminate our legislative message to the public by working with national media in Washington as well as state and local reporters. Her communication skills and commitment to the conservative cause has helped clarify and focus our messages.

Matthew Stroia has served on my staff focusing on several issues related to the aerospace and energy industries. I appreciate the way he applied his skills and knowledge of the legislative process to help ensure Kansans' interests were made a top priority.

Richard Henkle has been a committed legislative staffer who has helped me focus on several issues impacting Kansas. His work on agriculture, bio-security and pro-life issues has made a real difference to our state.

Sarah Osborn has served in my Washington office helping me with the House Economic Competitiveness Caucus agenda as well as ensuring constituent responses were fully addressed. I am grateful for the countless tasks she has done to help make our legislative office run successfully.

Jill Craven has dedicated a meticulous attention to detail and put her talents to work helping constituents receive prompt and informative responses to concerns with government agencies. Her never-quit attitude has benefitted constituents across the state of Kansas.

Mark Dugan has performed admirably in ensuring my office remained responsive to constituents, and he was instrumental in several of my efforts to reach constituents with information about what was happening in Washington.

Joel Katz has served in my Washington office helping the legislative staff meet its deadlines and achieve our goals. His hard-work, commitment to getting the job done and dependability made a huge difference to me and to the constituents he served.

Kenya Cox has an incredible dedication to many causes that have benefitted our district and the entire state. I appreciate her dogged and persistent work ethic in response to constituent requests. Her commitment to resolving problems and her tenacity in getting the job done well is admirable.

Andy Purath has served me in Washington for the last year as a congressional military fellow. I appreciate his hard work in the legislative office and his willingness to serve our country.

Mariam Bell has helped us complete the archive process on deadline and has been a blessing to Vicki and me for many years. I am thankful for her thoughtful approach to handling an enormous task.

I want to also recognize staff who have previously worked for me: Dave Hanna, Matthew Schlapp, Ruth Richman, Karen Casto, Tamara Baker, Gwendolyn Caldwell, Ardena Schienbein, Cindy Gustafson, Pam Porvaznik, Russ Yost, Scott Margolius, Judy Patton, Melissa Beall, Matt Rowden, Brad Ayers, Hannah Woody, Kevin Bruce, Amy Skeen, Amy Butler, Jennilee Browning, Jamie Sauser, Scott Plecs, Timon Oujiri, Aaron Weiss, John Howland, John Brady, Elias Voces, Joan Smutko, Trisha Reagan, Monica Green, Cindy Black, Emily Wellman, Jason Moshier, Courtney English, Joey Rathbone, Chris Israel, Joe Cramer, Sarah Key Sunday, Doddie Bowman, Terry Horton, Amy Lorenzini, Cheryl Arensdorf, Katie Steers, Jenni Schallenkamp, Tiffany Keeler, Nicole Noble, Don Boleski and Arsalan Arif. Without the years of service these people gave, I would not have been able to accomplish so much.

I would like to thank the staff on the House Appropriations Committee that have aided me tremendously through the years: Jeff Shockey, Debbie Weatherly, Dave LesStrang, Steve Crane, Stephanie Meyers, Kevin Jones, Stephen Sepp, Liz Dawson, David Gibbons, Mike Ringler, Ben Nicholson, John Martens, Martin Delgado, Allison Deter, Jennifer Hing, Jenny Kisiah, Frank Cushing, Letitia White, John Shank, Tom Rice, Michelle Mrdozza, Migo Micconi, Ben Nicholson, Jennifer Miller, Dena Baron, Michael Stephens, Delia Scott, Chris Topik, Greg Knadle, Beth Houser, Rob Nabors, Cheryl Smith, David Reich, Nicole Kunko, John Bartrum, Tammy Hughes and Sandy Farrows.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the staff I have worked with on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Mike Meermans, John Stopher, Kathleen Reilly, Meghann Courter, Fred Fleitz and Courtney Littig.

To all of my Congressional colleagues I have worked with over the years: it has been an honor to serve alongside you. Thank you for your friendship and your dedication to our great country.

My family and I deeply appreciate all our supporters and friends who have lifted us up in prayer and those who have given so much to make the impossible happen. For the past 16 years as I traveled to work and saw the Capital dome in the morning, I would pray, "Lord, help me do the right thing."

God has answered that prayer by surrounding me with a family and staff who, along with thousands of friends and supporters, have helped me faithfully carry out my responsibilities.

In the coming months and years, many tough decisions will be made in terms of what we do as a country. The success of our nation depends on engaged citizens who believe, as our Founding Fathers did, that the government should be by the people and for the people. We must all remain in the fight to help make Kansas and our country stronger, more prosperous and an even better place to raise a family.

Vicki and I look forward to continuing that journey with all those who have so faithfully walked with us.

While there are numerous other people that could be mentioned, I again want to say what an honor it has been to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives on behalf of the people of Kansas who sent me here these past 16 years.

May God continue to bless the Great State of Kansas, and may God bless America.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2965, the Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010. This will be the second time this year that the House votes to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Opponents of repeal are out of touch with the American people, out of touch with the American military, and out of excuses. For years, Republicans in the House and Senate have claimed that allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly would threaten unit cohesion. America's troops and military leaders disagree. In the Pentagon's comprehensive review of this issue, 70 percent of service members surveyed believed that repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" would have no negative effect on the performance of their units. The military's top leaders, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen—both appointed by President Bush—have strongly advocated for repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

At a time when our military is fighting two wars, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is hampering our Armed Forces, and harming our national security. According to a GAO report, the military had discharged over 750 mission-critical service members by 2003 because of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," including over 320 service members with language skills—such as Arabic and Pashto—that are critical to our success in Iraq and Afghanistan. As reported by the Washington Post, there are an estimated 66,000 gay Americans currently serving in the military; that's 66,000 American troops who could be discharged tomorrow simply because they are gay.

Mr. Speaker, today I will vote to end a policy of open discrimination against a group of courageous Americans—men and women who

proudly serve in the Armed Forces and put their lives on the line to defend our country. For thousands of gay and lesbian veterans who have been discharged from the military over the years, Congress has acted too late. Nonetheless, it is time to honor their service by providing a new generation of patriotic gay and lesbian Americans the opportunity to serve our country proudly and openly.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2965, and I call upon Members of the Senate to do the right thing by repealing this destructive policy once and for all.

HONORING BLAKE GOETZ

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor a very distinguished member of my community, Fire Chief Blake Goetz.

Today I wish to recognize Fire Chief Blake Goetz, who has dedicated 33 years of service to the City of Palm Springs and over 29 years to the Palm Springs Fire Department. He will retire from his position as Fire Chief on December 31, 2010, and I am pleased to rise to make a few remarks on his impressive accomplishments and many contributions to the City of Palm Springs.

Chief Goetz started his career with the Palm Springs Fire Department in 1981. Over the years, Chief Goetz has remained committed to safeguarding our community and has greatly increased the Coachella Valley's preparedness for fires, earthquakes and floods. Goetz initiated the Palm Springs Fire Department's Fire Prevention Safety Program to spread awareness of the dangers of fire and fire-related hazards to local grade schools during Fire Protection Week. His work in developing the Palm Springs Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) brought this critically important program to our area, and has greatly enhanced our local community's ability to respond to disaster. Goetz was appointed Fire Chief in 2004, and has continued to be an outstanding public safety official and well-respected leader in the community.

In addition to his time at the Palm Springs Fire Department, Chief Goetz has committed himself to the safety and well-being of the people of the Coachella Valley in many other areas. As a certified emergency manager with the International Association of Emergency Managers from 1998 to 2008, Chief Goetz played an essential role in bringing the Coachella Valley Emergency Managers Association to our community. Goetz has served as a member of the board of directors of Southern California Emergency Services Association and is currently chair of the board of directors of the Palm Springs Federal Credit Union. Goetz holds a lifetime instructor credential in fire science for California Community Colleges, and I am confident that he will continue his efforts towards promoting safety and protecting others after his retirement.

Today I stand proud to honor the admirable accomplishments of Fire Chief Blake Goetz, and extend my sincere appreciation for his distinguished service to the Palm Springs Fire Department and the Coachella Valley.

IN HONOR OF COACH JOE
PATERNO AND HIS 400TH WIN AT
PENN STATE

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, a great coach, a leader among men, who is an icon of college football and is one of Penn State's greatest treasures. Joe has just recently won his 400th college victory. More importantly, Joe's greatest accomplishments are not found on the football field, but in the young men that he has prepared for the game of life. I ask that this tribute penned in honor of him by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

PA . . . TERNO INSTINCTS

Upon, these fields of green . . .
Have but come, year after year . . . such
young men who dare to dream . . .
Specimens, of such great strength and speed
. . . of might, almost like supermen
who lead . . .
Who one day must walk off this great stage,
with what now to carry them through
their days?
And what do they now have so left, when
their days of glory are gone to them to
bless?
For sixty so odd years, as have so here . . .
As have such young men, so appeared . . .
From boys to men, at Penn State to be so en-
deared . . .
To be blessed, by Joe Pa to be near . . .
Upon, these fields of green so here . . .
For one man, one coach . . . has stood on
principle, oh so very clear . . .
To help build lives, build futures . . . as has
he so strived each year . . .
While, watching over them . . . from boys to
men . . .
Like a Shepherd, watching over his flock
. . . time, and time again . . .
Giving them hopes and dreams, discipline
and honor to each and every one it
seems . . .
Like a Father . . . Like a Son . . . as "with
each student, this new family has run
. . .
Leading, guiding, coaching, teaching, loving
each and every one!
With but his Pa Terno Instincts and dreams
. . .
As Joe Pa, has guided them from their teens
. . . Showing them all how life is won!
Molding them all, into such fine men . . . all
upon these fields of green . . .
His gift to all, a future . . . way beyond these
fields of dreams . . .
Education first! As now we see Joe Pa's fine
worth . . .
As this great love affair, brings such tears to
eyes . . . as Joe Pa's Terno instincts,
give rise!
For Joe, is a giver not a taker . . . bringing
boys to men, to new heights as they
awake here . . .
For few will run in NFL's sun, so what do
they so have left when all is done?
A future! Over four hundred career wins are
great . . .
But, Joe Pa spells victory . . . with one
word, "Graduate!"
With but his heart of lion, for all of them,
Joe Pa will never stop trying!
Oh, upon these fields of green . . . to mold
boys to men, to live their dreams . . .
But to have thousands and thousands, of lov-
ing sons . . .

No greater blessing, or victory to be won . . .
With but Joe's Pa... terno Instincts . . . he
has willed, all on these fields of green
. . .

For upon these fields of green, Joe . . . Pa is
a winner who has won . . .
But, In The Game of Life . . . Joe Pa is but
a Champion this one!

TRIBUTE TO TROOP 184 BLUE
RIDGE COUNCIL OF THE BOY
SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Troop 184, Blue Ridge Council, of the Boy Scouts of America, on a momentous achievement. As of October, all five original members of Troop 184 have now attained the rank of Eagle Scout. As an Eagle Scout myself, I know the dedication, character, and commitment that each Scout has shown, and I am proud to recognize them for their hard work and their service to their community.

I would also like to recognize the remarkable leadership of Scoutmasters Kevin Dawson and Eugene Moorefield III. Kevin Dawson has also received the award of Silver Beaver from the Blue Ridge Council for his dedication to the Boy Scouts. Mr. Dawson and Mr. Moorefield's truly exceptional leadership and dedication have helped to instill in these young men values that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. I am honored to recognize their service and leadership.

I ask you to join me in congratulating Gavin Dawson, James Moore, Lee Merryman, Hart Gillespie, and Martin Moorefield for their impressive achievements. These young men have shown the finest qualities of citizenship, leadership, and service, and I look forward to seeing them contribute to their communities for years to come.

CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITIVE
CHEERLEADING TEAM

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Calhoun High School Lady Yellow Jackets, Georgia's 2010–2011 Competitive Cheerleading State Champions.

Coached by Ginger Reeves, Calhoun's Varsity Competitive Cheerleading Team has been a dominant force in cheerleading in my home state of Georgia, winning four state titles since 2006.

The varsity squad consists of Jade Ables, Nikki Bertuca, Makenzie Blalock, Erica Carter, Christina Cumbey, Gabby Defalco, Brooke Dixon, Morgan Diamond, Ashlyn Gilbert, Jessica Goswick, Melanie Hampton, Aslyiah Harris, Mackenzie Kessler, Katelyn Langston, Kristen Langston, Hannah Magnicheri, Magen Pinyan, Mary Plunkett, and Hillary Rhodes.

I am proud of all of their accomplishments and their contributions to my home state and the 11th District of Georgia.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Calhoun Lady Yellow Jackets.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT IN-
SURANCE REAUTHORIZATION,
AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4853—Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.

I believe it is important that we extend the so-called Bush tax cuts for everyone while our economy is still struggling to recover, and as long as we can pay for it. This bill as presented to the U.S. House does not meet that test. I am especially disappointed in the provision on the estate tax. I cannot in good conscience cast one of my last significant votes in Congress in favor of a bill that would add tens of millions of dollars to the Federal deficit to benefit the wealthiest few families in the country.

The payroll tax holiday provision included in this package is also troublesome since for the first time in 75 years, the sacrosanct, dedicated revenue stream to provide Social Security benefits is diverted for other purposes. While we have fully protected the Social Security Trust Fund in the legislation and there will be no change in how much money is in the Trust Fund, I am concerned that proponents of private accounts will argue to continue this diversion of the payroll tax beyond one year—perhaps even putting the money into private accounts. At a time when we know that the long term solvency of Social Security will need either greater contributions or significant reductions in benefit, providing a payroll tax holiday is clearly a move in the wrong direction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 628 on, H.R. 1405, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site Designation Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 629 on, S. 3167, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave

birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 630 on, H.R. 6510, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, To direct the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Houston, Texas, to the Military Museum of Texas, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF
JUAN L. RIVADENEIRA AND
JORGE E. VILLACIS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor two brave young men from my District who died recently while serving their country in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Juan L. Rivadeneira of Davie, Florida died November 13th when an insurgent suicide bomber detonated a vest bomb and struck his unit in Kandahar, Afghanistan. He was 27 years old.

Rivadeneira was an Infantryman assigned to Company B., 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division based out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Staff Sergeant Rivadeneira served in two wars, first in Iraq and then in Afghanistan. And from the moment he enlisted in 2003, he was hard working, a quick learner, and most importantly, a dependable soldier that you wanted at your side.

Not surprisingly, during his seven years in the Army, Juan Rivadeneira was highly decorated for his bravery and commitment to his mission, receiving sixteen medals and badges. His company commander in Iraq, Army Major Robert Rossi said of him, "if someone needed help, he was the one to pick them up."

Corporal Jorge E. Villacis, of Sunrise, Florida died just this past Sunday, December 12th when his unit was attacked by an insurgent with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device while serving in Howz E Madad, Afghanistan. He was only 24 years old.

Villacis was an Infantryman, who joined the Army in September 2008. Born in New Jersey, Villacis graduated from American Senior High School in Hialeah.

Also based out of Fort Campbell Kentucky, Villacis' awards and decorations include: Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Global War Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon, and Combat Infantry Badge.

Both of these young men called South Florida home. Both of these young men answered their country's call to service.

And both of these young men left proud, but grieving family members behind.

Juan and Jorge met at Fort Campbell Kentucky and they were deployed to Afghanistan together in June.

Maybe it was the fact that Juan's family had roots in Venezuela, and Jorge's family was from Ecuador.

Maybe it was that both of them hailed from South Florida. Or maybe it was that they just hit it off.

But regardless of the reason, Juan and Jorge soon became close friends. In fact, last year, Juan and Jorge and their families joined together to celebrate Thanksgiving at Fort Campbell.

I didn't have the pleasure to know Staff Sgt. Rivadeneira, nor Corporal Villacis. Nor did our families know each other.

Yet, my family, and our nation owes a deep debt of gratitude for the service and ultimately the untimely loss of these two brave young men.

Neither of these men was forced to serve their country in the military.

Indeed, none of America's soldiers serving our country here or abroad, combat or non-combat, was forced to enlist in the military.

Yet they did. Juan and Jorge both answered our nation's call to serve and like thousands upon thousands of men and women before them, they fought for America's freedom, our liberty, and to ensure that our country remains the free and prosperous nation that it is today.

During this holiday season, and as we reflect upon the past year, we need to recognize the service and sacrifice of those who are serving and have served our country, like Juan and Jorge, who died fighting to protect our American way of life.

While I didn't know Staff Sgt. Juan L. Rivadeneira and Corporal Jorge E. Villacis, personally, mere words cannot express the gratitude I feel for them and their families.

CARROLLTON HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Carrollton Trojans who have been a dominant force in high school football in my home state of Georgia.

Carrollton ended the season with a 14-1 record and ranked number two in the state in Class AAA. Coached by Rayvan Teague, Carrollton's offense racked up an eye-opening 632 points this season—averaging 42 points a game—while their defense recorded six shut-outs.

I am proud of the Carrollton Trojan's accomplishments and contributions to my home state of Georgia and the 11th District of Georgia.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Carrollton Trojans.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF JAMES L.
STUBBLEFIELD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James L. Stubblefield for his contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the

scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out someone who has accomplished an amazing feat that deserves recognition, applause, and perhaps, a test of his sanity; incredibly, Jimmy Stubblefield has been a part of my staff for all of my 26 years in Congress.

Jimmy graduated a few years after I did from Middle Tennessee State University and jumped right in to my first campaign for Congress. He has served as my field representative ever since that first election, criss-crossing the district with me and logging countless late nights. Jimmy has helped thousands of Middle Tennesseans resolve issues with federal agencies, straighten out immigration and passport issues and receive needed benefits. He has touched the lives of many families and helped keep my Murfreesboro office running smoothly.

Jimmy has always been known as the man who can get things done. He has worked with community leaders around the district to cut through red tape and make planned improvements a reality. He has helped spearhead the expansion of the Stones River National Battlefield, now one of the top historical destinations in the region. He saw to fruition the development of the Greenway system, which has given Rutherford County residents space to exercise and preserved our community's green spaces in the midst of incredible population growth. Jimmy knows each of these projects like the back of his hand, down to the fences and sign posts. He has ensured our alma mater MTSU has the resources and assistance it needs to accommodate the largest undergraduate student body in the state. Rutherford County has seen incredible development since Jimmy and I began working together, and Jimmy's fingerprints are all over it.

Jimmy serves as president of MTSU's Alumni Association, and he and I have cheered the Blue Raiders through many ups and downs over the years. It's a good thing he's a sports fan because his athletic daughters have kept him busy running to games and cross country meets all around the area. Jimmy met his wife Nancy through my campaign, and it has been wonderful watching Katherine and Margaret grow up.

Jimmy is one of three men who have stood by me from the very beginning, through victories and disasters—through hell and, literally, high water in the aftermath of tornadoes and severe flooding. Along with Kent Syler and Billy G. Smith, Jimmy has been there every step of the way.

Madam Speaker, I could not have accomplished half of what I did without Jimmy's dedication and friendship. Jimmy, thank you for all your help and loyalty over these many years. I wish you, Nancy, Katherine and Margaret all the best.

HONORING MRS. KATHY HINCKLEY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mrs. Kathy Hinckley to the U.S. House of Representatives

and to the constituents of Rhode Island's first district. A tireless worker, Mrs. Hinckley has long been a powerful advocate for those in need. Her love of country, compassion, and loyalty are a shining example to all future public servants. As Mrs. Hinckley prepares to transition to the next phase of her incredible career, we remember her dedicated service to the U.S. House of Representatives and offer gratitude on behalf of the thousands of Rhode Islander's whose lives she touched.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4853, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 for one simple reason. It includes an extension of federally-subsidized unemployment compensation benefits for thirteen additional months. The importance of extending unemployment benefits for my constituents back home cannot be overstated: these benefits are a critical lifeline for many in my district, as they are for millions of other Americans and their families. In October, the latest month for which data is available, there were 588,000 individuals in the State of Ohio who relied on this benefit to keep their heads and their families' heads above water. The Department of Labor reports that nearly 8.3 million Americans were receiving unemployment compensation as of early November.

Extending federal support for unemployment benefits is the least that we can do on behalf of the estimated 1.2 million people nationwide whose unemployment insurance either recently expired or will expire as they reach the last weeks of their available benefits. Cutting off unemployment benefits only adds to the shame and humiliation that people feel upon losing gainful employment through no fault of their own. For the residents of Ohio, this cutoff has been especially painful as the unemployment rate in Ohio is currently 9.9 percent. Through 2009, of those who were unemployed in my state, nearly a third had been unemployed for 26 weeks or longer. This is the highest rate of long-term unemployment seen in over 15 years. Ohio's economy was already struggling long before the current recession hit. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Ohio lost approximately 430,000 manufacturing jobs from 1990 through July of 2010.

These staggering job losses have a spillover effect, touching every county and city in Ohio, as foreclosure rates have risen to a devastating level. Each year since 1995, the rate of new foreclosure filings in Ohio has grown, and from 1995 to 2009, the rate quadrupled. In 2009, there were a record 89,053 fore-

closure filings—that is one foreclosure filing for every 56 housing units in the State of Ohio. In the City of Cleveland alone, there have been more than 38,000 new foreclosure filings since 2005. Because this crisis spread steadily to more middle-class and high-income suburban areas, non-urban areas now have the highest foreclosure rates in the state.

The ripple effects continue. Ohioans are forced to live with others due to foreclosure. They face communities marked with vacant and abandoned properties. The State of Ohio tells us that there are around 58,000 Ohioans who have exhausted the assistance they were getting from the state or federal government. But there are no official counts of the number of underemployed individuals, who are thankful for what they do have but cannot find opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. It is for these people that I cast a "yea" vote on this bill.

The bill contains much more than the unemployment benefits. It provides for a two-year extension of the tax cut provisions passed in 2001 and 2003 for individuals and couples at all income levels and extends the 10 percent, 25 percent, 28 percent, 33 percent and 35 percent marginal tax brackets for two years. It temporarily repeals, for two years, the personal exemption phaseout, "PEP", as well as the itemized deduction limitation that taxpayers may claim on their income tax filings. It also continues enhanced child tax credits, and the maximum 15 percent rate on capital gains and dividends for taxpayers in the 25 percent tax bracket and above. It reduces the tax known as the "marriage penalty" and it includes a two-year "patch" intended to prevent more than 25 million Americans from being subject to the alternative minimum tax, otherwise scheduled to take effect in the next calendar year. It also extends expensing rules for small businesses.

However, I am gravely concerned that the inclusion of a provision to lower the employee portion of the payroll tax by two percentage points for one year threatens to reduce Social Security to a bargaining chip. This provision significantly weakens Social Security's revenue stream and makes it more vulnerable to the calls for cuts and privatization the program has faced for years. Advocates of this provision point out that Americans may use the money that will not be deducted from their paychecks to pay down the crushing level of personal debt that many are struggling with. But the cost to the Social Security trust fund of \$112 billion is dangerous because it cuts one-third of Social Security's funding this year alone. Worse, the act of temporarily lowering this contribution—normally an accepted deduction from every working American's paycheck—may become a political issue when time comes for this provision to sunset and the payroll tax to be reinstated. Social Security is a vital lifeline for our nation's seniors, and we tread into perilous waters when we tinker with its funding mechanism.

Mr. Chair, this bill contains many provisions about which I have strong reservations, including the payroll tax "holiday," the gutting of the estate tax, subsidies for ethanol and liquid coal, and the extension of low tax rates for the wealthiest Americans. But this bill contains a crucial provision—an extension of unemployment benefits which are critical for millions of Americans. I cannot in good conscience vote against it.

CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Calhoun Yellow Jackets who have been a dominant force in high school football in my home state of Georgia, and in my 11th Congressional District.

Calhoun finished the season with a 14–1 record and ranked number two in the state in Class AA. Coached by Hal Lamb, the team beat the number one ranked team in Class AA to reach the finals, only to lose a heartbreaker in overtime.

The team was led by senior quarterback Landon Curtis; wide receivers JT Palmer, Ben Lamb, Chase Riserson, and Clay Johnson; and running back Dustin Christian.

The Yellow Jackets have won Georgia AA Region Seven for the past ten years straight. I am proud of their accomplishments and contributions to the 11th District of Georgia.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Calhoun Yellow Jackets, their five-time State Champion cheerleading squad, Superintendent Dr. Judy Stiefel, Principal Kelly Bumgardner, and the entire student body and community of Calhoun, Georgia.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF WELCOME BACK VETERANS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H. Res. 1746, a resolution recognizing and observing the efforts of the Boston Red Sox Foundation and other organizations for their Welcome Back Veterans Initiatives. I thank Congressman STEVE ISRAEL for introducing this resolution to give us the opportunity to move in a definitive direction in improving the care for our veterans.

I am emotionally connected and affected by the plight of returning soldiers and their families. As a Korean War Veteran myself, I know all too well the significant toll that war can have on a soldier's physical and mental well-being, and that of their families. I am very familiar with how substantial support upon returning home can make all the difference.

I, along with other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, welcomed the Boston Red Sox Foundation to our Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Veterans Braintrust to explore and discuss issues concerning our veterans. The Boston Red Sox Foundation's efforts were very impressive.

Given the fact that we are welcoming an increasing amount of our soldiers home who will without a doubt be faced with a multitude of problems that we may not yet be equipped to

deal with, this discussion is very timely. For this reason, I am heartened that this resolution encourages our Veterans Affairs Department to establish innovative public-private partnerships in the treatment of PTSD. This is a remarkable turning point in our handling of this condition.

I again thank the gentleman from New York for introducing this resolution and I urge all the members of this body to stand in support with me to ensure our service members are receiving the care they so rightfully deserve.

KENDRICK MEEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary career of Congressman KENDRICK MEEK. A man who took up the torch from his mother—our former esteemed colleague, Congresswoman Carrie Meek—and has carried it further than any of us would have ever imagined. He has truly been a trailblazer here in Washington, DC.

A native of Florida, Congressman MEEK received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1989 from Florida A&M University, where he co-founded the school's Young Democrats chapter. After rising to become the first African-American chief of police in Florida, Congressman MEEK was elected to the Florida House of Representatives from 1995 to 1998 and to the Florida Senate from 1999 to 2002. While in the Florida Senate, Congressman MEEK chaired Florida's Coalition to Reduce Class Size and helped gain a major victory for students throughout the state, with 2.5 million Florida citizens voting to approve the initiative.

During the four terms that Congressman MEEK has served Florida's 17th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, he has lit a spark among all of us and brought a renewed spirit to the mission of not only the Congressional Black Caucus, but to all of Congress. He has sponsored legislation creating a Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force, expanded trade preferences to Haiti's textile industry, provided tax relief to individuals taken advantage of by Ponzi schemes, and expanded the number of Medicare-supported physician residency training positions in states with a shortage of residents. Congressman MEEK has also been recognized nationally for his commitment to youth issues and for his use of social media as a way of strengthening collaborative communication with his constituents and enhancing civic engagement.

Congressman MEEK has served admirably on the House Committee on Ways and Means and as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. On the international level, he has served on the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, an inter-parliamentary organization of legislators representing NATO members and associate countries. He served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and led it to its prominent national stature.

Congressman MEEK is a dedicated public servant, who has always fought fiercely for social and economic justice. He has truly in-

spired a renewed spirit throughout the Congress. On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I honor Congressman MEEK for his outstanding commitment to his district and his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 641, to suspend the rules and pass S. 3860, a bill to require reports on the management of Arlington National Cemetery, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 639 on Motion to adjourn, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 640 on S. 841, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 641 on S. 3860, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, A bill to require reports on the management of Arlington National Cemetery, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 642 on S. 3447, On Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment, Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 643 on H. Res. 1766, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 644 on H. Res. 1766, On Agreeing to the Resolution, as Amended, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 645 on S. 987, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and

Pass, To protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

H. RES. 1540: SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF ERADICATING ILLICIT MARIJUANA CULTIVATION ON FEDERAL LANDS AND CALLING ON THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED STRATEGY TO PERMANENTLY DISMANTLE MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER CRIMINAL GROUPS OPERATING ON FEDERAL LANDS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 1540, a resolution supporting the goal of eradicating illicit marijuana cultivation on Federal lands and calling on the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to develop a coordinated strategy to dismantle Mexican drug trafficking organizations and other criminal groups operating on Federal lands. H. Res. 1540 is an unnecessary statement that continues the Bush administration's failed approach to United States drug policy by overemphasizing military and law enforcement as the primary instruments of U.S. drug policy and its focus on marijuana to the exclusion of other more harmful drugs. If the approach recommended in this resolution were enacted, it would require the diversion of valuable resources from an effective policy already in place.

There is no doubt that the problem identified in the resolution, illicit marijuana cultivation on Federal lands, is real and harmful. Mexican drug trafficking organizations' ("DTOs'") use of national forests and parks for illicit marijuana cultivation imperils visitors and damages pristine national resources. However, contrary to the implication of the resolution, ONDCP already has a coordinated strategy to address this problem. ONDCP's 2010 National Drug Control Strategy outlines how it has worked on a coordinated effort to combat the DTOs' illegal cultivation via its High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program in conjunction with the Department of Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Guard, the Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Agency, the Department of Justice's National Drug Intelligence Center, and state and local law enforcement agencies. In some of these initiatives, such as the Domestic Marijuana Eradication and Investigation Project, ONDCP has provided funding through HIDTA for these efforts. ONDCP has also coordinated a strategy to combat the DTO cultivation of marijuana on Native American reservations.

Moreover, while disrupting organized criminal groups is critical to successfully reducing the violent drug trade in Mexico, there are far more cost-effective ways to undermine the efforts of DTOs than combing the vast public territories in the U.S. for marijuana. U.S. counter-narcotics policy must be both evidence-

based and cost-effective, especially in the current fiscal environment. The immense public territory on which this cultivation could occur makes aerial surveillance akin to finding a needle in a haystack: it would involve great expense and a militaristic approach to policing vast public lands. Given the practical challenges and enormous resources that would be required to make a sizable dent in eradicating marijuana cultivation on public lands, the policy proposed by H. Res. 1540 is neither evidence-based nor cost-effective. If we are to devote more resources to reducing the supply of illegal drugs in the United States, domestic eradication programs are not the best use of taxpayer dollars.

As the Chair of the Domestic Policy Subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, with oversight jurisdiction over the Office of National Drug Control Policy, I have held several hearings in the past year which have established that science and research support focusing our counterdrug dollars on drug treatment and evidence-based drug prevention programs. These hearings have also demonstrated that it is a more effective use of our resources to reduce and prevent the public health consequences of drug use such as HIV transmission and overdose deaths.

As Secretary of State Clinton has acknowledged, reducing U.S. consumption of drugs is one of the most effective ways we can help Mexico combat its drug trade. I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CHILD NUTRITION ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, as we close this year, I wish to voice my support for the advancements we made to the Child Nutrition Act this month. S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which the President signed into law this month, will do much to reduce child hunger and obesity.

Poverty is a stark reality for far too many people in my Congressional District, in Chicago, and in Illinois. In my Congressional District, the poverty rate based on 2008 Census data was 22.6 percent—well above the national average. The child poverty rate in 2008 for my District was 34.1 percent, almost double the national average. There are three primary child nutrition programs that this bill improves: the National School Lunch Program; Women, Infants, and Children, WIC, Program; and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. In Illinois, there are over 1 million children who benefit from the school lunch program, 300,000 who benefit from WIC, and 124,000 who benefit from the Child Care Food program. These children will benefit from our improvements to the Child Nutrition Act, whether they attend child care or school. Further, the state of Illinois will receive approximately \$11 million more dollars per year to help provide food for these children in need.

In addition to increasing federal reimbursements, I am proud that this bill will improve the nutritional quality of children's meals and re-

duce the availability of high-calorie junk food on school grounds. These steps will help tremendously to promote health and reduce obesity. I am very happy that this bill expands the after-school supper program, which is estimated to provide an additional 21 million meals to low-income children. I have had many people in Chicago tell me about the importance of these programs for children. There also are a number of enhancements to improve the programs' management and integrity. For example, in high poverty communities, the bill eliminates the requirement of paper applications and uses Census data to determine school-wide eligibility. It also establishes professional standards for food service providers and improves food safety requirements.

Given the deep need for improvements in the child nutrition law, I cast my vote in support of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. This said, I wish to voice two disappointments I have with this bill. First, although we increased reimbursement rates per meal by 6 cents, these new resources are not sufficient to cover the local cost of providing the federal free and reduced-priced lunches and breakfasts. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that school districts' costs of providing free lunches exceeds the federal reimbursement by over 30 cents per meal. In urban areas like Chicago, this loss is much closer to 75 cents per meal. Given that over 700,000 students in Illinois participate in the low-income school lunch program, the financial burden to my school district is great. Subsidizing food so that low-income children can eat healthy meals and learn is important; I believe that the federal government should provide a greater share of the cost for caring for its youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

Second, I am disappointed that one of the offsets for this bill sent to us by the Senate is a reduction in funding for poor families in need of federal aid to purchase food. Children and families who receive food assistance are some of our most vulnerable citizens. In 2009, 1.46 million Illinoisans in 677,000 households received food stamps with an average per month of about \$136 for a total benefit value issued of \$2.3 billion. There are many poor families in Chicago and Illinois who need the full amount of the food benefits. Even if the impact is a few years away, I am disappointed that my vote to provide much-needed improvements in our child nutrition laws occurs by reducing future benefits to the poor. I vow to work actively with my colleagues to replace this funding so that no reduction in food assistance comes to fruition.

DOMESTIC FUEL FOR ENHANCING NATIONAL SECURITY (D-FENS) ACT OF 2010

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff recently commented at the 2010 Energy Security Forum that "[the Department of Defense] is using 300,000 barrels of oil every day. The energy use per soldier creeps up every year. And our number-one import into Afghanistan is fossil fuel." Admiral Mullen understands how

critical an energy supply is to a combat troop; but how safe are our troops if this oil comes from overseas? Our defense sector should adopt more sustainable fuels, which can be produced here in the United States; for the security of our troops.

As an initial step forward, the Secretary of the Navy, Ray Maybus, outlined five formal energy goals to lead the Navy toward a more energy secure fleet:

1. Evaluation of energy factors will be mandatory when awarding Department of the Navy contracts for systems and buildings.

2. Department of the Navy (DoN) will demonstrate a Green Strike Group in local operations by 2012 and sail it by 2016.

3. By 2015, DoN will reduce petroleum use in the commercial fleet by 50 percent.

4. By 2020, DoN will produce at least 50 percent of shore-based energy requirements from alternative sources; 50 percent of Navy and Marine Corps installations will be net-zero.

5. By 2020, 50 percent of total energy consumption will come from alternative sources.

To ultimately realize these goals we need to dramatically scale up advanced biofuel production in the U.S. One way to help scale this nascent industry is to allow government entities to engage in longer term contracts with fuel producers. These longer term contracts will provide additional market certainty and will ultimately help unlock private investment for construction and development of large advanced biofuel refineries.

That is why I introduced the Domestic Fuel for Enhancing National Security (D-FENS) Act 2010. This bill extends the multi-year contracting authority for advanced biofuels from 5 years to 15 years.

In the great state of Washington, interests from the private sector, universities, and major airports are already working to bring the first generation of biofuels to the market, and their efforts can be greatly enhanced by this legislation. These fuels are based on plants such as camelina, jatropha, and even algae; plants that can be grown right in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to being able to grow these feedstocks in our own backyard, research on the next generation of biofuels is also creating jobs at our highly regarded research institutions. These efforts will make sure that the U.S. secures its competitive edge in this field.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill, and hope that we can work together to move it toward passage as soon as possible.

PAUL KRUGMAN AND FACTS VS. REPUBLICAN MYTHS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, in recent years Paul Krugman has been, in my view, the single-most incisive and accurate commentator on our economy. In the New York Times today, December 17, he rebuts very effectively the partisan effort to shift blame for our recent economic crisis away from the failures of deregulation and of financial irresponsibility in the private sector issued by the four Republican Members of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. It is of course

the case that government policy failures played some role in the crisis, but the most egregious of these is ignored by these partisans—the refusal of the Republicans in the Bush administration, the Federal Reserve and in Congress to support Democratic efforts to restrict the kind of irresponsible predatory mortgages that should not have been issued and which were a major cause of the crisis. As Mr. Krugman notes, “the G.O.P. commissioners are just doing their job, which is to sustain a conservative narrative. And a narrative that absolves the banks of any wrongdoing, that places all the blame on meddling politicians, is especially important now that Republicans are about to take over the House.” Referring to the incoming Chairman of the Financial Services Committee, Mr. Krugman sadly, but with good reason, predicts “that he and his colleagues will do everything they can to block effective regulation of the people and institutions responsible for the economic nightmare of recent years.”

Madam Speaker, I ask that Paul Krugman's very important correction to an egregiously erroneous report be printed here.

[From The New York Times, Dec. 16, 2010]

WALL STREET WHITEWASH

(By Paul Krugman)

When the financial crisis struck, many people—myself included—considered it a teachable moment. Above all, we expected the crisis to remind everyone why banks need to be effectively regulated.

How naïve we were. We should have realized that the modern Republican Party is utterly dedicated to the Reaganite slogan that government is always the problem, never the solution. And, therefore, we should have realized that party loyalists, confronted with facts that don't fit the slogan, would adjust the facts.

Which brings me to the case of the collapsing crisis commission.

The bipartisan Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission was established by law to “examine the causes, domestic and global, of the current financial and economic crisis in the United States.” The hope was that it would be a modern version of the Pecora investigation of the 1930s, which documented Wall Street abuses and helped pave the way for financial reform.

Instead, however, the commission has broken down along partisan lines, unable to agree on even the most basic points.

It's not as if the story of the crisis is particularly obscure. First, there was a widely spread housing bubble, not just in the United States, but in Ireland, Spain, and other countries as well. This bubble was inflated by irresponsible lending, made possible both by bank deregulation and the failure to extend regulation to “shadow banks,” which weren't covered by traditional regulation but nonetheless engaged in banking activities and created bank-type risks.

Then the bubble burst, with hugely disruptive consequences. It turned out that Wall Street had created a web of interconnection nobody understood, so that the failure of Lehman Brothers, a medium-size investment bank, could threaten to take down the whole world financial system.

It's a straightforward story, but a story that the Republican members of the commission don't want told. Literally.

Last week, reports Shahien Nasiripour of The Huffington Post, all four Republicans on the commission voted to exclude the following terms from the report: “deregulation,” “shadow banking,” “interconnection,” and, yes, “Wall Street.”

When Democratic members refused to go along with this insistence that the story of Hamlet be told without the prince, the Republicans went ahead and issued their own report, which did, indeed, avoid using any of the banned terms.

That report is all of nine pages long, with few facts and hardly any numbers. Beyond that, it tells a story that has been widely and repeatedly debunked—without responding at all to the debunkers.

In the world according to the G.O.P. commissioners, it's all the fault of government do-gooders, who used various levers—especially Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-sponsored loan-guarantee agencies—to promote loans to low-income borrowers. Wall Street—I mean, the private sector—erred only to the extent that it got suckered into going along with this government-created bubble.

It's hard to overstate how wrongheaded all of this is. For one thing, as I've already noted, the housing bubble was international—and Fannie and Freddie weren't guaranteeing mortgages in Latvia. Nor were they guaranteeing loans in commercial real estate, which also experienced a huge bubble.

Beyond that, the timing shows that private players weren't suckered into a government-created bubble. It was the other way around. During the peak years of housing inflation, Fannie and Freddie were pushed to the sidelines; they only got into dubious lending late in the game, as they tried to regain market share.

But the G.O.P. commissioners are just doing their job, which is to sustain the conservative narrative. And a narrative that absolves the banks of any wrongdoing, that places all the blame on meddling politicians, is especially important now that Republicans are about to take over the House.

Last week, Spencer Bachus, the incoming G.O.P. chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, told The Birmingham News that “in Washington, the view is that the banks are to be regulated, and my view is that Washington and the regulators are there to serve the banks.”

He later tried to walk the remark back, but there's no question that he and his colleagues will do everything they can to block effective regulation of the people and institutions responsible for the economic nightmare of recent years. So they need a cover story saying that it was all the government's fault.

In the end, those of us who expected the crisis to provide a teachable moment were right, but not in the way we expected. Never mind relearning the case for bank regulation; what we learned, instead, is what happens when an ideology backed by vast wealth and immense power confronts inconvenient facts. And the answer is, the facts lose.

H.R. 5987, THE SENIORS PROTECTION ACT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5987, the Seniors Protection Act.

H.R. 5987 would provide a one-time payment of \$250 to 54 million American seniors, retired and disabled veterans, and disabled individuals.

Due to low inflation rates, there has not been a COLA, or cost of living adjustment, in

an unprecedented two years. But that doesn't mean America's seniors aren't hurting. In the absence of a COLA this modest payment will help America's seniors weather these tough economic times.

In today's economy seniors are confronted by loss of pension income and retirement savings, high prescription drug costs, and reduced access to affordable housing.

While Republican politicians turn a blind eye to seniors and defend America's millionaires club, the leaders in the Democratic Party continue to work for the dignity of older Americans.

The Seniors Protection Act is another effort in the time tested tradition of the Democratic Party defending the rights and interests of America's senior citizens.

We are the party that established Medicare and Social Security, and last year instituted the Seniors Task Force to continue the work the Democrats have done on behalf of seniors.

If not for Social Security assistance, more than 13 million low-income elderly Americans would fall into destitution.

With so many seniors this close to the poverty line, you can be sure that this payment—while small—will have a significant impact on the economic security of millions.

Aside from the import this will have on America's seniors, studies show that disbursements of this nature are a very effective economic stimulus.

When Social Security beneficiaries received \$250 payments as part of the 2009 Recovery Act, 125,000 jobs were created or saved.

We have an opportunity here to make immediate, tangible improvements to both the lives of millions of seniors and the American economy. Please join me, and my colleagues on the Seniors Task Force in supporting H.R. 5987—The Seniors Protection Act.

IN MEMORY OF PATRICK D. DEANS

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Patrick D. Deans who was killed in military action December 12, 2010 in Afghanistan, Kandahar Province. This 22 year old youthful Army soldier and his family lived in and near the 7th Congressional District. Patrick was raised in the St. Cloud area and I never had a chance to meet him. Because he did not reside in my congressional district at the time of his death I was not officially notified of his passing. I read about Patrick's life and his service and his death in our local newspaper.

When I read what this young soldier wrote in his Facebook posting on November 10th, one month prior to his being killed in a suicide bomber attack, I felt compelled to include his words and some of his life story in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In his commentary Patrick said, “A veteran is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check payable to the United States of America for an amount up to, and including their life. That is beyond honor and there are way too many people in this country who no longer remember that fact.”

What an incredible statement and prophetic observation from this young man and hero. Before his sacrifice of his own life he clearly realized the commitment he had made to his Nation and also mentioned a reality of how military service and sacrifice is often forgotten by people and public officials. I believe it's important on not only Memorial Day and Veterans Day and now during the holidays and in fact every day that we remember the sacrifice of Patrick D. Deans and thousands of other men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live as a free people.

Patrick grew up in East Orange county Florida and moved to Narcoossee and east Osceola where he attended Harmony High and played football. He later resided in East Orange County and graduated in 2006 from Timber Creek high school where he was a member of Air Force ROTC Program.

Patrick joined the Army in 2007 and served as an Infantryman until his deployment. His awards and decorations include: Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Medal and Overseas Ribbon. He was posthumously promoted to corporal.

He is the only child of Patrick M. Deans, a corporal with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, and Robyn Deans of Seminole County Florida.

Along with my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives I extend my deepest sympathy to Patrick's family and the eternal gratitude of our Nation.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, last night, I voted against a fiscally irresponsible \$858 billion tax cut package. Every penny of this budget-busting bill will be borrowed—much of it from China—and the burden placed on the backs of our children and grandchildren.

To keep the economic recovery on track and meet the needs of struggling American families, I do support extending middle class

tax cuts and unemployment insurance. But Republicans in Congress held these priorities hostage until millionaires and billionaires were guaranteed tax cuts that they don't need. Tax breaks for the wealthy are a luxury Americans can't afford. This is simply wrong. With unemployment nearly at 10 percent, Members of Congress should be focused on getting all of America back to work, not padding the trust funds for a precious few.

The tax package the House voted on last night was even worse than the one negotiated by the President and Republicans in Congress. The Senate got into the holiday spirit and sent the House a Christmas tree bill loaded down with special interest "sweeteners." Why will NASCAR owners open their stockings this year to find a \$40 million tax break from the American people? Why are Hollywood producers getting a \$162 million in special breaks paid for by the American people? Why do rum makers in Puerto Rico get \$235 million? Middle class Americans shouldn't be forced to use the nation's credit card so the special interests receive everything on their wish lists.

America needs honest and responsible policymaking. The federal budget is in crisis and tough decisions are necessary. This tax cut package makes no tough decisions. Instead, kicks the hard choices down the road and makes solving America's fiscal crisis much harder.