

The human and financial costs of these “endless wars” to our nation have been enormous. A policy of using U.S. military force to impose democracy in the Middle East has not worked and will not work. Moreover, how do we ever hope to get federal spending under control if we keep on the current course?

American foreign policy should be guided by what is in our nation’s best interest. We need a new strategy to address the threat of radical Islam. Remember: President Reagan put a policy in place to win the Cold War with very little loss of American military lives.

Changing America’s foreign policy is just the beginning. We need to pick a new president we can count on for an economic policy that puts Americans back to work, starts helping the private sector grow again and rebuilds our manufacturing base. The best way to do that is to replace our onerous business tax system—which exports prosperity and American jobs overseas—with a revenue-neutral, business consumption tax that will level the playing field with our trading competitors and bring jobs home to America.

Next, we should pick as our new president someone we can count on to replace Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben S. Bernanke with someone like Thomas M. Hoenig, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, who has warned of the risks of loose monetary policy and who understands the importance of a sound-dollar policy.

A new president should be one we can count on to end taxpayer bailouts of the “too big to fail” financial institutions—a policy begun by Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin in the Clinton administration and continued by Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson in the Bush administration. If these institutions are too big to fail, they are too big.

We’ll want a new president to determine what levels of spending cuts are necessary and feasible. Then, devolve power wherever possible over domestic programs by removing federal mandates and sending control over spending back to the states and local communities. Give Medicaid back to the states in the form of block grants, just like we did with welfare reform in the Reagan administration.

A president committed to getting federal spending under control also has to be willing to make cuts in defense spending (which has nearly doubled over the past decade), foreign aid and entitlements. Mr. Bush’s Medicare drug plan alone, pushed through Congress in 2003, constitutes an unfunded liability of \$55 billion annually, or \$7.2 trillion over the next 75 years. It only speeds up the date when Medicare will be bankrupt. That issue needs to be addressed as part of overall health care reform.

Finally, we cannot ignore the coarsening of our culture and the unraveling of our once strong social fabric, so necessary for the nurturing and preservation of a good society. Bluntly speaking, a free-market system without an ethical compass guiding it will not work. A constitutional republic without the Judeo-Christian ethic as its foundation will not last.

Only if we make the right choice next year will we get a new president who can help America find its way back.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010–2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—NIKI AKHAVEISSY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District’s young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, “CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces.” I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, “A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization.”

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

As the president of the Frisco High School student council, most of my efforts go toward the Homecoming dance in October. I organized this entire dance and spent hours volunteering my time in order to decorate it and make sure everything is set at the standard of perfection. The theme of the dance this year was “A Night at the Shore” and all of the decorations were beach themed. I oversaw the completion of this project from the beginning to the very end, and the final product was extremely satisfying. This project was the fruit of my labor for months, and I spent 5 hours on the day of the dance, Saturday, October 2nd, decorating the banquet hall of the hotel to resemble a serene beach. I also had to fill out numerous proposals in order to get the venue, vendors, and theme approved. From there I went to finding a DJ, and recruiting other members

to spend their time both before and after the dance to help set up and clean up. This volunteer opportunity really helped me reach out in the community and help significantly raise the level of spirit at my school.

—Niki Akhaveissy

REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011. This legislation amends the Clean Water Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act “FIFRA”, to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters.

In 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, promulgated a rule that codified EPA’s longstanding interpretation that the application of pesticides for their intended purpose and in compliance with Pesticide label restrictions is not a discharge of a “pollutant” under the Clean Water Act, and therefore, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit would not be required. However, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated this rule in *National Cotton Council v. EPA*. In this case the Court required the EPA to develop a new NPDES permitting process under the Clean Water Act for the purposes of pesticide use. The Court-ordered deadline for EPA to promulgate the new permitting process for pesticides is April 9, 2011.

As a result of this court decision, EPA estimates that approximately 365,000 pesticide users, including state agencies, cities, counties, mosquito control districts, water districts, pesticide applicators, farmers, ranchers, forest managers, scientists, and everyday citizens that perform 5.6 million pesticide applications annually will be affected, doubling the number of entities currently subject to NPDES permitting under the Clean Water Act.

Once the court order goes into effect, pesticide users not covered by an NPDES permit will be subject to a fine of up to \$37,500 per day per violation. In addition to the cost of compliance, pesticide users will be subject to an increased risk of litigation under the citizen suit provision of the Clean Water Act. The court ruling does not change any standards for pesticide regulation and provides no additional environmental or public health protection. It simply adds a layer of unnecessary and costly bureaucracy.

This bill recognizes that pesticides are already regulated by the EPA under FIFRA and that any additional regulation would be burdensome and duplicative. I was proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation and support its passage through the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained during the floor vote on this bill and was unable to cast my official vote in support of the measure. If I were present at the time of the vote, I would have proudly cast an “Aye” vote because we cannot continue to subject the agricultural community to increasingly burdensome regulations. I am pleased that Congress was able to act on this bill and

I look to the Senate for its expedited review and hope that the President will subsequently sign the measure into law. Our countries farmers deserve nothing less.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCK-
CASTLE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
LADY ROCKETS BASKETBALL
TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2011
KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATH-
LETIC ASSOCIATION'S STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Rockcastle County High School Lady Rockets Basketball Team who captured the 2011 Kentucky High School Athletic Association's State Championship title. Coach Chrysti Noble led the team to an incredible victory that our region will cherish for years to come.

On March 12, 2011, the Lady Rockets defeated a talented team from Dupont Manual High School, winning 62 to 60 in a game forced into overtime. With one second remaining, senior Angie Lawrence hit the game-winning shot.

The state title is the realization of a dream come true, especially for the team's seniors. As teammates in the fifth grade, the girls experienced success as Rockcastle County's first team to earn a trip to the Amateur Athletic Union's national tournament. After tasting victory, they decided their next goal was to win the Kentucky State Championship in high school. Heart and determination have always separated this team from the competition.

In addition, I commend the tournament's most valuable player, Kentucky's first-ever McDonald's All American, Sara Hammond, for the leadership she demonstrated throughout her career at Rockcastle County High School, both on and off the court. Sara has been a prominent advocate for Operation UNITE, spreading a drug-free message to the youth in southern and eastern Kentucky.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chrysti Noble and the 2011 Lady Rockets as the KHSAA State Champions. Coach Noble and her student-athletes have demonstrated outstanding dedication, teamwork, unselfishness and sportsmanship throughout the course of the season in achieving this great honor. I congratulate them and wish them all the best in the years to come.

ARTHUR GAGNON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker it is a wonderful privilege to stand and pay tribute to celebrate the extraordinary life of Mr. Arthur Gagnon. Sadly, he passed away on March 24th, 2011, and his loss will be felt by all who knew this

inspirational person. Mr. Gagnon was a man that had many passions, and had a lifetime of wonderful achievements on a professional and personal level. Above all else he was a man that was truly devoted to his family, faith and country.

Mr. Arthur Gagnon was born and raised in Albany, New York, and he lived there until he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1950. Mr. Gagnon enjoyed a successful career in the Air Force that lasted two decades, and took him to all corners of the globe. He retired as a Senior Master Sergeant and always claimed to love the work he did and the people he met along the way. After twenty years of moving around the country Mr. Gagnon and his family moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, which allowed him to continue civilian work with the Air Force at the Air Force Academy Visitor Center. Mr. Gagnon was also endlessly committed to doing all he could to assist his fellow veterans, and he did so as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Retired Enlisted Association and Disabled American Veterans. Mr. Arthur Gagnon was a man that had a true sense of the meaning of service.

For all of his deeds in his service to America, Mr. Arthur Gagnon was even more committed to his family. He married his wife Delores in 1953 and they enjoyed a 58 year marriage. Mr. Gagnon also had three children, and was a grandfather and great-grandfather. Many in the Gagnon family looked to the lessons they learned from their father and grandfather as an example of how they should live their own life. His son James Gagnon served as an officer in the Air Force, and one of his grandsons, Joseph Gagnon is currently a first lieutenant in the Air Force. His grandson, David Sprenger, believes that his success working in the U.S. Congress can be directly attributed to the ideals he learned from his grandfather. Mr. Gagnon clearly touched the lives of others in many ways.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to stand and pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Mr. Arthur Gagnon. He was a man that tirelessly tried to bring fulfillment into the lives of those around him, and he will be dearly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF AREA
HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS
(AHECS)

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker: I rise today to acknowledge the contributions of the nation's Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) and applaud the vitally important healthcare workforce programs they conduct to improve access to healthcare for medically under-served individuals.

AHECs, established by Congress in 1971 as one of the Title VII Health Professions Training programs, are the workforce development, training and education machine for the nation's healthcare safety net programs. Across the nation, 56 AHEC programs and more than 235 affiliated AHEC centers collaborate with

over 120 medical schools and 600 nursing and allied health programs to improve the quality, geographic distribution and diversity of the primary care workforce.

Last year, AHECs facilitated the placement of more than 44,000 health professional students in 17,530 community-based practice settings nationwide including community health centers, rural health clinics, critical access hospitals, tribal clinics and public health departments. To address the growing shortage of health care professionals in America, over 33,000 received more than 20 hours of health career exposure, information, and academic enhancement to prepare them for health professions training programs.

The University of South Florida's AHEC Program connects students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health. The USF AHEC Program inspires youth to choose a career in the health professions with its health career camps, mentoring programs, college preparatory courses and more. USF focuses on recruiting more minority and disadvantaged youth into health careers because as the nation's population becomes more diverse, it is important that the health care workforce reflects that diversity. AHECs in the Tampa Bay area are dedicated to community service and committed to enhancing the lives of Florida's most vulnerable populations who often go without health care due to geographic isolation and economic or social status. From 2000 to now, USF AHEC and its centers, Gulfcoast North AHEC and Gulfcoast South AHEC, have placed over 13,000 health professions students, residents and providers in medically underserved sites such as community health centers, county health departments and indigent care clinics within its service area; have increased access to healthcare at these sites with approximately 3 million patient encounters; and have guided more than 10,000 youth to careers in health through student enrichment and diversity programs. Most recently, USF AHEC and its centers have also provided tobacco cessation services to over 1,600 residents of the service area in an effort to combat the nation's leading cause of disease, disability and death—to tobacco use.

Not only have AHECs supported the education of future professionals, but they have supported more than 482,000 health professionals caring for the medically under-served with programs designed to enhance their skills, knowledge, and quality of care. AHECs have awarded 1.1 million contact hours of continuing education programs to current health professionals. AHECs extend the academic resources of health professions training programs into rural and medically under-served communities throughout the United States by creating partnerships between the health science centers that train health professions students, residents, faculty, and practitioners and the local providers that care for our nation's increasing number of medically under-served citizens.

Mr. Speaker, through community-based interdisciplinary training programs, AHECs identify, inspire, recruit, educate, and retain a health care workforce committed to under-served populations. To that end, I would like to take this opportunity to officially recognize National AHEC Week, March 14 through March 18, 2011.