EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SERGEANT JAMES T. HACKEMER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant James T. Hackemer, a veteran of the Iraq War who tragically died in an accident on July 8, 2011 at the age of twenty-nine.

A native of the Village of Gowanda, Sergeant Hackemer joined the military after graduating from Gowanda High School. He had hopes of becoming a state trooper after serving his country. Sergeant Hackemer's selfless ambitions made him a model of heroism for his generation.

In March of 2008, Sergeant Hackemer was in southern Baghdad when a bomb exploded under his vehicle. The disaster robbed him of both his legs and his left hip. After spending the next three years in physical therapy, Sergeant Hackemer defied his doctors' expectations by regaining his ability to walk again with the help of prosthetic legs.

After leaving the hospital, Sergeant Hackemer returned to his life in Western New York. Even while struggling with his loss, Sergeant Hackemer made an effort to enjoy life through spending time with his friends and family and learning how to bike again. His story is a lesson of hope for everybody in his community.

Sergeant Hackemer is survived by his wife, Alycia, and his two young daughters, Kaelynn and Addison.

It is my honor to pay tribute to Sergeant James T. Hackemer's life, and I offer my deepest condolences to the Hackemer family for their loss. His resolute spirit and valor will be remembered by those in his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably delayed, I missed the vote on the Polis Amendment to H.R. 2219 (Roll No. 529). I would like to reflect that I would have voted against this amendment, which failed by a margin of 113–307, had I been present to record my vote.

CRAIG OLIVE ''PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST''

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge my dear friend Craig Olive. Since taking office in December, 2002, as Johnston County's Registrar of Deeds, Craig Olive has made tremendous strides in efficiency, innovative office automation, streamlining services, reducing costs to citizens and going the extra mile to serve the people of Johnston County.

Craig has been consistent in his efforts to reduce fees, maximize office efficiency, improve computerization and automation of services, and provide excellent customer service for Johnston's citizens. He implemented a recording software program, to streamline the process of recording documents at a cost savings of over $300,000 in a five year period. He has automated the marriage license process—allowing issuance of a license in 10 minutes. He has also automated the issuance of other vital records, i.e., birth and death certificates, reducing waiting time and increasing productivity. He has digitized all records dating back to the beginning of the county; mid-1700s. Craig was the first Registrar of Deeds in North Carolina to follow the North Carolina Secretary of State's standards and submit an ''eRecording.'' Craig's office was the first in the Nation to electronically record a survey map. Through the automation of his office, Craig has been able to increase the efficiency of his office, while at the same time saving valuable tax dollars.

In service to the county and State, Craig has spearheaded the effort to have legislation enacted that would conceal individuals' Social Security and driver's license numbers from appearing on the Internet, via public records.

Craig and his staff always go the extra mile while treating everyone with respect. In February 2010, NC Secretary of State awarded Craig with the Honorary Keeper of the Constitution for outstanding recordkeeping of public documents.

Craig has been consistent in carrying out policies and methods that have reduced fees and costs for citizens and professionals, improved productivity and efficiency through automation, and has consistently made sure that his office provides outstanding customer service. Mr. Olive, through his service, provides the blueprint of how a Registrar of Deeds office should be run in order to provide the highest levels of efficiency, productivity, innovation and service for the people of this county.

HONORING SCOTT CITY, KANSAS FOR ITS DESIGNATION AS A 2011 ''ALL-AMERICAN CITY''

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the citizens of Scott City, Kansas. In June 2011, the National Civic League recognized Scott City as an ''All-American City.'' Only ten communities across the country received this honor.

Scott City presented to a panel of judges three projects involving community collaboration. First, community members shared information about how the town has been holding potluck dinners and fiestas to bridge gaps that exist among different cultures. These events have facilitated greater dialogue and understanding among the various populations of Scott City.

Second, community members presented information about how town volunteers and First Baptist Church transformed a vacant storefront and warehouse into a community youth center. Known as ''Area 96,'' this site provides a safe and welcoming place for young people to spend their free time, as well as a site for other community groups to utilize.

Third, Scott City residents shared how they have used the renovation and expansion of the Scott County Library as an opportunity to transform the role of the Library in the community from just a building to a community information center. Not only have they increased youth services and youth-driven programs, but they have also expanded their services and offerings for English language learners.

The achievements of Scott City, Kansas demonstrate that the efforts of communities and individuals provide the true backbone of America. I congratulate Scott City for this remarkable and well-deserved honor.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CASCADIA MARINE TRAIL STUDY ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Cascadia Marine Trail Study Act.

The Cascadia Marine Trail is a unique, 150-mile long water trail stretching from the Canadian border south through the San Juan Islands and Puget Sound to Olympia. It was started in the late 1980s by local kayaking enthusiasts wanting to highlight the 5,000-year old small-boating tradition along the water trail. The trail's popularity with both tourists and local boating enthusiasts is a testament to its grassroots beginnings and extensive local support, making it a valuable economic and natural State resource.

The Cascadia Marine Trail has been recognized as a significant environmental and tourist resource, including its 1994 designation as a National Recreation Trail and in 1999 as a National Millennium Trail. In 2005, the American Canoe Association (ACA) designated the trail an ACA-Recommended Water Trail. The trail's 55 safe pull-out zones and campsites are managed by a multitude of State and local agencies, despite its extensive length.

First introduced in 2009, the Cascadia Marine Trail Study Act directs the Department of Interior to study the feasibility of adding the trail to the National Trail system. During the

110th Congress, the bill passed the House with unanimous support but unfortunately, did not make it out of the Senate. Today, with bipartisan support, I am reintroducing the Cascadia Marine Trail Study Act. The trail's designation as a National Scenic or Historic Trail, if recommended by the Department of Interior study mandated by the bill, would raise its national profile, provide for educational and interpretive resources along the trail, and coordinate management and restoration of the trail and surrounding campsites.

The bill has wide support, including endorsements from several national and statewide recreation and conservation agencies and is the first step toward enhancing the visibility and preservation of this historic water trail. Designation will help encourage tourism across the Puget Sound, which will bolster local economies in the Puget Sound region. According to the Prosperity Partnership, the Tourism and Visitor industry cluster is the region's largest economic cluster with more than 108,000 jobs across the region. Scenic travel to places like the Cascadia Marine Trail can have a significant impact on the economy of surrounding communities. The Cascadia Marine Trail is a State gem that deserves its chance to become a national treasure.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE REILLY DREW UNIVERSITY—CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST/GENOCIDE STUDIES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me as I rise to offer this tribute to Ms. Joyce Reilly as she is honored on April 3, 2011 by Drew University's Center for Holocaust/Genocide Studies. This is a well deserved honor for a woman who has had an incredible interest in and compassion for her fellow human beings who have been victims of various atrocities throughout our world. The empathy that Joyce Reilly demonstrates towards all people in general, and victims of genocide, in particular manifested itself when she was a young child. She knew at a tender age that she would want to spend her life promoting activities and serving in capacities that would be meaningful to the survivors and would honor the memories of the deceased.

Joyce Reilly's passion to increase awareness of past and on-going acts of genocide led her to pursue multiple ventures to achieve her goals. Fortunately, for Drew University, Joyce began her studies in psychology there in 1970. She would subsequently work in various residential communities serving emotionally and mentally challenged individuals. These communities included Great Britain, Germany and the United States. A life-long learner, Joyce continued her studies at Mercy College (now Sunbridge College) in Detroit, Michigan and served for a time on its faculty. In 1982, Joyce would move to Kimberton, Pennsylvania where she founded Gheel House, a therapeutic community for the mentally and emotionally challenged. She serves as the Executive Director of Logos Foundation, a foundation for young children endangered by war, poverty and their effects on modern life. Through Joyce's many interactions with victims and visits to sites of conflicts, she has been able to meet some incredible people including Dr. Joseph Seberenzi, former Speaker of the House in Rwanda who is a survivor of that genocide and a conflict transformation specialist.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the family, friends and associates of the Ms. Reilly are proud of what she has accomplished so far in her life. My office has been fortunate to work with her on Darfur through a collaboration of organizations working to assist those victims who struggle daily to overcome the tragedies visited on its people in recent years. I ask my fellow members to join me in this tribute to excellence. It is a proud moment for me to acknowledge her today and to let her know how much all of us appreciate the work she continues to do.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, the Republican Energy and Water Appropriations Act would take American energy policy back to the 19th century. It slashes funding for solar, advanced vehicles, building efficiency, biomass, home weatherization, advanced energy research, and loan guarantees for renewable energy. Incredibly, as gas prices remain high the Republicans gut funding for fuel efficient automobiles. These cuts would be devastating for domestic manufacturers of renewable energy and energy efficiency technology, as well as our domestic auto industry. Consider the magnitude of these cuts:

$97 million cut in solar funding, helping Chinese solar manufacturers at the expense of American producers;

$46 million cut in fuel efficient vehicles, hurting consumers at the pump while putting American auto producers at a competitive disadvantage;

$61 million cut in building efficiency, which will expose consumers to rising electricity prices;

$33 million cut in biomass research, crippling a critical domestic industry which supports the timber industry and diversifies our electric generation portfolio;

$141 million cut in home weatherization funding, an 81 percent cut in a program which saves consumers money by reducing their electric bills;

$80 million cut for Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA–E), a 44 percent cut in critical clean energy research;

$1 billion cut in High Speed Rail money, punishing commuters in congested regions like the Washington-Boston corridor;

$43 million cut in science research, hurting American competitiveness.

In addition to attacking domestic manufacturing, clean energy production, and efficiency programs, the Republicans have inserted policy riders to advance a radical anti-environmental agenda at the expense of Americans' public health. Their rider would block the Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency from implementing the Clean Water Act in accordance with guidance from those agencies. Following a decade of regulatory uncertainty following a Supreme Court decision, the Obama administration issued guidance to help landowners comply with the Clean Water Act. This guidance replaced a confusing patchwork of lower level court decisions and produced the regulatory certainty that Republicans claim to support. This rider demonstrates that the Republicans are not actually interested in regulatory "certainty;" they are simply opposed to any and all environmental and public health regulations. Since they know they can't win a public debate about these public health standards, they are trying to sneak in a rider to an appropriations bill to block the regulations.

American entrepreneurs developed the solar panel and more sophisticated wind turbines, yet China and Germany are far ahead of American wind and solar production. The Obama administration requested funding increases for renewable energy so America can compete and produce clean energy generation domestically, but the Republican budget would actually slash clean energy funding.

Just as the American auto industry is recovering as a result of the Obama Administration's intervention, this Republican appropriations bill would gut advanced vehicle and vehicle efficiency funding. We need to produce more efficient vehicles and advanced hybrid vehicles here in America. The American auto industry declined in the 1970s and 1980s as foreign competitors produced more efficient, technologically advanced vehicles. We cannot afford to give up market share again by surrendering to foreign auto producers.

This Republican appropriations bill is not an isolated attack on American clean energy production and industrial competitiveness. The same Republicans have already passed legislation in the House—thankfully not the Senate—to repeal the Clean Air Act and block vehicle efficiency standards in the future. Never in the history of American politics has one of our great political parties been so blind to opportunities of the future and determined to repeat failures of the past.

We have a real opportunity to boost American manufacturing of clean energy and advanced vehicles. Just as a result of the Recovery Act we went from producing 2 percent to 40 percent of advanced batteries. We cannot allow this Republican appropriations bill to reverse that progress and cripple American industrial competitiveness.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMAN WHO TRAVEL WITH THE NATIONAL 9/11 FLAG

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those who travel around the country with the National 9/11 Flag.

During the cleanup of the World Trade Center disaster, a large tattered flag was pulled from the rubble. It was brought by the New York Says Thank You organization to Greensburg, Kansas, a city recovering from a devastating tornado. Volunteers from New York, along with Greensburg residents, began stitching the flag back together with flags recovered from the Greensburg tornado.

The flag now serves as a symbol of American resilience and compassion. It is carried around our country by a core group of volunteers. These patriotic men and women sacrifice their time and travel at their own expense to bring this great flag to millions throughout our Nation. Over 160 million Americans have seen the flag in person or on television. The flag is brought to public events, town gatherings and cultural and sporting events. At these venues, American citizens can share their national pride, even adding stitches to the flag itself. Once completed, the flag will become part of the National September 11th Memorial Museum being built at the World Trade Center.

On March 29, 2011, the National 9/11 Flag was brought to the York Beach, Maine Fire Department. Alongside FDNY firefighters, local service heroes stitched a patch onto the flag. Through their participation, these remarkable men and women add to the American story, honoring their colleagues and country in an historic stitching ceremony. The volunteers who travel with the flag and the local community partners make these events of honor possible.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in recognizing the men and women who participate in the restoration of the National 9/11 Flag.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MELVIN SABSHIN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember former medical director for the American Psychiatric Association, Melvin Sabshin. He led the APA for nearly a quarter century from 1974 to 1997. Dr. Sabshin passed away on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at the age of 85.

Dr. Sabshin's accomplishments during his tenure at APA were numerous and far-reaching. His years at APA included publication of new editions of the ''Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders''; creation of the American Psychiatric Press, Inc.; development of practice guidelines; and strengthening research, advocacy, education, and public affairs. Sabshin also increased the organization's international involvement, including working with the World Psychiatric Association and others to help end the use of psychiatry to suppress political dissent in the Soviet Union and other parts of the world.

Dr. Sabshin completed high school at age 14 and undergraduate study at the age of 17. After brief service in the U.S. Army, he completed medical school and residency at Tulane University. He then took a position at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago and in 1961 became the head of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. During this time he became active in the APA and was elected to the Board of Trustees; and in 1974 he became the medical director of the APA.

Upon his retirement from APA, he took a position as clinical professor of psychiatry with the University of Maryland and lived much of the year in London with his British wife, where he was an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. He remained active in the APA, attending Annual Meetings throughout his retirement.

Dr. Sabshin was an author of dozens of scientific articles and author or co-author of 7 books, including his latest in 2008, ''Changing American Psychiatry: a Personal Perspective,'' in which he describes changes in psychiatry in the post WWII era and later and offers his insights into the process. Dr. Sabshin is survived by his wife, Marion Bennathan, his son, James Sabshin, MD, and 4 granddaughters.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the life of Dr. Melvin Sabshin.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH LITTLEFIELD

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Joseph Littlefield of Ogunquit, Maine. Mr. Littlefield, through lifelong service to his community and state, exemplifies Maine's great tradition of philanthropy. Last year, Mr. Littlefield was named the 'Ogunquit Outstanding Citizen.' In addition to his many other generous contributions to the community, Mr. Littlefield recently donated Beach Plum Farm to the Great Works Regional Land Trust. Beach Plum Farm is a 23-acre parcel of land that includes paths, gardens, and beach plums. Residents of Ogunquit will have this wonderful gift forever. Mr. Littlefield's continued passion for life and his generosity to his fellow Mainers is extraordinary. Maine is fortunate to have Mr. Littlefield in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing floor votes on Monday, July 11, 2011. Had I registered my vote, I would have voted: ''yea'' on rollcall 534, On Agreeing to the Amendment for H.R. 2354—Tierney of Massachusetts amendment; ''nay'' on rollcall 535, On Agreeing to the Amendment for H.R. 2354—Graves of Missouri amendment; ''yea'' on rollcall 536, On Agreeing to the Amendment for H.R. 2354—Scalise of Louisiana amendment; ''nay'' on rollcall 537, On Agreeing to the Amendment for H.R. 2354—Woodall of Georgia amendment; ''nay'' on rollcall 538, On Agreeing to the Amendment for H.R. 2354—McClintock of California amendment.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I am opposed to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for several reasons. One of these reasons is that while this bill increases funding for the Army Corps of Engineers over the President's request, it is not enough. The Army Corps completes critical flood control projects and also, through dredging at our port, fuels a major economic engine in Harris County, Texas and has been underfunded for years.

The Port of Houston is the largest foreign tonnage port and the largest petrochemical port in the country. In fact, it moves the second largest amount of cargo in the country, as 8.5 percent of our nation's cargo moves through the Port of Houston. The commerce that occurs at our port is critical to our nation's energy and chemical sectors and to our country's ability to trade and move goods throughout our country. It is a port of national significance, but has not received the attention that is necessary to answer the challenges we face in the near future. Despite the national importance of our port, it is facing a dredging crisis.

Currently, the Houston Ship Channel is dredged to a depth of 43 feet, but it should be as deep as 45 feet. The Panama Canal is expanding and when it is completed, the Port of Houston should be able to accept ships that take full advantage of the larger Panama Canal, and for this, they would need a depth of 50 feet.

However, under both the President's plan and the Republicans' plan, dredging at the Port of Houston will be left behind. For instance, under the President's budget, dredging at the Port is funded at about $23 million, that is $60 million lower than the amount necessary to just get the port to a depth of 45 feet, let alone 50 feet, which would be millions more.

As we confront the dual challenges of adopting policies that create jobs and reduce the debt, funding for dredging projects is an item that, while costly, will have more of a positive impact on our economy than a negative impact on our deficit. The Texas Transportation Institute performed a study and determined that a direct economic impact of the loss of 1 foot of draft is $373 million. The majority of this impact is lost business opportunities due to light loading of non-containerized vessels. As the dredging crisis at the port continues to worsen, this opportunity cost will quickly accelerate.

HONORING SHANNA ROGERS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shanna Rogers for being awarded the Geneva Kirk Award by the United Way Foundation of Androscoggin.

The Geneva Kirk Award is given annually by United Way of Androscoggin to individuals who have exemplified exceptional volunteerism and service to their community. This award honors the memory of Miss Geneva Kirk who dedicated her life to serving and teaching others, volunteering in a multitude of ways throughout her community.

Shanna was nominated by Androscoggin Head Start not only for her innumerable hours of community service to Head Start, but also for her involvement in many other organizations. Shanna works part time for the Neighborhood Housing League and part time at Marché's Restaurant. In her work with the Neighborhood Housing League, Shanna acts as an advocate for safe and affordable housing and as a mentor for tenants in the downtown area.

Her tireless work with Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care, the Neighborhood Housing League, the Women's Wisdom Center and the Visible Community demonstrates a commitment to her neighbors that would have made Geneva proud.

I am extremely honored to congratulate Shanna Rogers for receiving the Geneva Kirk Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in recognizing Shanna Rogers for her hard work within her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday July 11, 2011, due to inclement weather in Chicago, Illinois, I was unable to cast my votes for Roll Nos. 534, 535, 536, 537, and 538. I was originally booked on United flight 5347 from Springfield at 1:15 (CST), connecting to United flight 704 leaving O'Hare at 3:00 p.m. and arriving in DCA at 5:49 (EST). I was also backed up on American Airlines flight 3879 departing Chicago O'Hare at 3:00 p.m. However, I could not make either of these flights due to my original flight from Springfield being delayed until 7:00 p.m.

Had I been present, my votes would have been as follows:

For Roll No. 534, to increase funding for the Corps of Engineers construction by $133.8 million and Operations and Maintenance by $51 million and reduce funding for Nuclear Energy by $133.8 million and Fossil Energy Research and Development by $92.8 million, I would have voted "nay."

For Roll No. 535, which reduces the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife project by $1.75 million and increases Operations and Maintenance by $1 million for levee repair, I would have voted "yea." In light of the recent problems with flooding along the Mississippi, this transfer appears to be prudent.

For Roll No. 536, which transfer $6.3 million from supervision and general administrative expenses in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers to Corps of Engineers, Operation and Maintenance for dredging of waterways, I would have voted "yea." As with Roll No. 535, recent flooding problems make this transfer prudent.

For Roll No. 537, which transfers $4.9 million from Operation and Maintenance for global warming to the Spending Reduction Account, I would have voted "yea." I have voted to cut spending in a host of programs including those with which I am sympathetic.

For Roll No. 538, which transfers $3.25 billion from various research and development accounts and regional economic development commissions to the Spending Reduction Account, I would have voted "yea." I have voted to cut spending in a host of programs including those with which I am sympathetic.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE E. SHINHOSTER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to the wonderful accomplishments of George E. Shinhoster as he retires from the YMCA of Newark and Vicinity. It is indeed a pleasure for me to add my congratulations to that of his family, friends and colleagues of the YMCA of Newark and Vicinity as they celebrate in honor of a man who has been a Y professional for 42 years. George Shinhoster's retirement caps a career that saw him lead YMCA's in multiple states, with his last five years in the great State of New Jersey. For all the contributions he has made over the years, Mr. Shinhoster deserves to be feted on this marvelous albeit melancholy occasion.

The YMCA of Newark and Vicinity was fortunate to have the wise counsel of Mr. Shinhoster who came to serve on an interim basis but chose to stay for an extended period. During his tenure, he was able to accomplish multiple goals including a positive financial bottom line. Rarely has an individual been such an integral part of an organization where strength, integrity and determination have been the driving forces of the outcomes. Clearly, George Shinhoster could have taken his talents elsewhere but the Y is extremely grateful that he chose to follow in the footsteps of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King whom he credits with much of his accomplishments. In fact, George Shinhoster worked with Dr. King during the 1960's and participated in many of the civil rights initiatives occurring during that time period.

Based on George's background, it is no wonder that he chose to serve and he has served well. As a strong supporter of the YMCA and its programs for youth, it has been my personal honor to work with George Shinhoster and to encourage his efforts. These efforts have led to some dynamic improvements and image boosting for the YMCA of Newark and Vicinity. His sphere of influence in the community and the synergy he helped to create through the Y will always be remembered by the many employees, program participants and residents of the Greater Newark area.

Mr. Speaker, I know my fellow members of the House of Representatives agree that George Shinhoster has been a part of the fabric of the Y and that his departure will leave a void that will not easily be filled. We wish him well in this new phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO ORANGE BEACH FIRE CHIEF FORNEY HOWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an Alabamian who for more than four decades has stood watch over our communities and our homes, keeping us safe and risking his own life to protect many who were at the mercy of a fire, an accident or an unforeseen force of nature. On August 1, 2011, after forty-plus years on the job, Orange Beach Fire Chief Forney Howard will officially retire from public service.

Chief Howard began his career in 1970 when he joined the City of Birmingham Fire Department. During his tenure in Alabama's largest city, Forney served in the Birmingham Fire Training Division for five years as Captain and as Chief of Training.

During this period, over 500 firefighter recruits were trained and graduated from the Training Bureau. He had the privilege of being part of the first Paramedic Class in the State of Alabama during the summer of 1973. Chief Howard also served on the Birmingham's first Hazmat Unit. At his retirement from the Birmingham Fire Department, Chief Howard was Battalion Chief for the eastern district of that city.

In April 2004, Forney Howard was appointed interim Fire Chief for the City of Orange Beach, and the following month the Mayor and City Council made the appointment permanent. His experience and abilities were put to the test early in his tenure when Hurricane Ivan made a direct hit on the Gulf Coast in September of that same year.

Under his tenure with the City of Orange Beach, Chief Howard has lead the Fire Department and their Emergency Management services through several tropical occurrences, fires and the 2010 BP oil spill. Less than two months prior to his retirement, Chief Howard directed the Orange Beach Fire and Rescue response effort that successfully battled a significant wildfire at Gulf State Park.

In 2003, Chief Howard was recognized as Firefighter of the Year in Orange Beach, Emergency Technician of the Year for Birmingham in 1975, and has been a past member and past President of the Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs. Chief Howard served on the Board of Trustees for South Baldwin Medical Center and is currently on the Board of Trustees for Columbia Southern University, where he also obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science.

A fighter who not only saved lives but is also a cancer survivor himself, Chief Howard

recently told the Baldwin Register newspaper that he always enjoyed his work. ''People's worst days are our best days. That's when we get to do something and help people. We don't want anybody's house to burn, but we know what to do. We don't want anybody to get sick and have chest pains, but we know how to help you.''

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I wish to extend heartfelt congratulations to Chief Howard for a job well done. As he prepares to pass the reins of leadership, I wish all the best to him, his lovely wife of 45 years, Joyce, and their two children and five grandchildren.

HONORING DENNIS SISTO OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis Sisto on the occasion of his retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa County, California. Dennis' leadership will be truly missed by his colleagues, health care providers throughout the Napa Valley, and all of us in the community who have received superlative medical care from Queen of the Valley during his tenure.

Mr. Sisto has worked for the St. Joseph Health System for 24 years, the past 13 at Queen of the Valley. During his tenure, Mr. Sisto has served as a champion for the health and quality of life of the Napa Valley community. To respond to the needs of the underserved, he has guided Queen of the Valley through the creation of new healthcare services for persons with HIV/AIDS, cancer and congestive heart failure directed at individuals without health insurance or the ability to pay. His leadership has ushered in an unprecedented era of technological growth for healthcare services in the Valley, bringing such advancements as the robotic surgical system, a state-of-the-art linear accelerator for the treatment of cancer patients, an imaging center housing the world's finest diagnostic imaging equipment and a new Outpatient Surgery and Procedure Center.

To focus on improving community health and address higher than anticipated Napa County mortality rates for heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes, Mr. Sisto has led the development process for the Queen of the Valley Medical Center's state of the art Wellness Center. The Wellness Center offers specialized programs directed at persons who need professional supervision to manage high health risks and chronic diseases. The creation of the Wellness Center represents a significant step forward for hospitals, allowing Queen of the Valley to expand its focus beyond acute care and offer preventive services as well as health maintenance programs.

Running a medical center in today's world can be a thankless and complex endeavor. It takes great integrity, a steady hand and a strong sense of humor to handle all of the challenges that present themselves to our hospital administrators. Mr. Sisto has all of these qualities in spades. He has been an invaluable partner in the process as we implement the Affordable Care Act on the local level.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Dennis Sisto for his many years of service to Napa and to thank him for his contributions to wellness and health care in our community. I join his wife, Judy, his entire family and our colleagues in wishing him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING POLAND'S PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of more than 110,000 of my constituents who are of Polish descent. It is my privilege to recognize Poland's upcoming role as the governing body of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Poland is a strong democratic ally of the United States with diplomatic relations extending over 100 years.

Last summer I had the privilege to travel to Poland and represent the United States Congress in Krakow for the Community of Democracies conference. Over 70 ambassadors from democratic and currently democratizing countries around the world attended the 10th annual conference to discuss the future of democracy, and to celebrate the progress democracy has made so far. The trip was an important moment in solidifying the already strong diplomatic relations between the United States and Poland and displayed Poland's ardent commitment to furthering democratic ideals throughout the world.

While in Poland, I was fortunate to witness democracy first hand as the nation held a special presidential election after the death of Polish President Lech Kaczyński. President Kaczyński and 95 others tragically died in a plane crash over Smolensk, Russia more than a year ago. During my trip to Krakow, I visited the Wawel Cathedral and had the opportunity to lay a wreath at the grave of President Kaczyński. I was truly humbled to experience the incredible sense of community and togetherness among the Polish people. I was also honored to deliver a flag and resolution from Speaker NANCY PELOSI on behalf of the House of Representatives to Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski expressing sympathy for Poland's tragic loss. The people of the United States stand in admiration of the strength of Poland's democratic institutions, which have persevered through three centuries filled with many hardships.

Poland's leadership at the Presidency of the European Union not only displays Poland's influence in the world's largest economy, but shows the growing respect the Nation receives as a growing voice within the global community. During its presidency, Poland hopes to successfully lead the European Union toward economic growth and an enhanced political community. Poland has set forth a ''Six-Month Program'' that will focus on three fundamental priorities it plans to achieve during their tenure. The first priority is to increase integration with the European Union. Poland believes that it is essential to create an internally competitive Europe and to develop a single European market within the European Union. Additionally, Poland hopes to improve the security of the European Union primarily through an increase in economic macro-security and through the development of an external energy policy. Poland also believes that the European Union will significantly benefit from economic openness. The Presidency will fully support any European Union enlargement, as well as continued participation in the World Trade Organization.

Finally, I would like to remind my colleagues in Congress to keep in mind Poland's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program, supported by President Obama. With Poland's strong diplomatic ties to the United States, and their growing influence in the European Union and the global community, it is important to finally include Poland in visa-free travel to the United States. It will promote increased relations with a democratic ally of the United States, as well as further encourage economic and cultural exchange between our two nations.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Poland as the upcoming governing body of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Poland is a democratic ally of the United States whose diplomatic relations will only strengthen as time goes on. I have seen first-hand their commitment to democracy and their importance as an ally.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for House Resolution 268, which reaffirms the United States' longstanding policy of support for Israel and a fair, negotiated conclusion to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This resolution clearly describes the final outcome that the United States has envisioned for so long: two democratic states—one Israeli, one Palestinian—living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition.

Attempts by the Palestinians to circumvent direct negotiations between the two nations, most recently through attempts to hold a U.N. vote on Palestinian statehood, have greatly undermined the peace process. The United States must continue to oppose such one-sided attempts and work to ensure that the final peace settlement is reached through fair negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

The resolution also confirms the United States' refusal to recognize any Palestinian government that has not publicly and formally renounced terrorism. This declaration is especially important in the wake of the recent union of the Fatah and Hamas factions, the latter of which the United States and the European Union deem a terrorist organization. Peace talks cannot continue until Palestinian leaders dismantle all terrorist infrastructure embodied within Hamas, take all necessary steps to counter incitements to violence, and accept

Israel's right to exist. This position is in keeping with current American policy, including statutory requirements for U.S. funding to the Palestinian Authority.

I believe strongly in the need to protect the lives of innocent civilians on both sides of the conflict, including the need to recognize and promptly address the dire humanitarian needs of Palestinians living in the Gaza strip. I strongly condemn the actions of Hamas, which has embedded its fighters and leaders in private homes and mosques as they use Palestinian civilians as human shields, target Israeli civilians, and force Israel to take decisive action in the Gaza Strip to protect its population living under the daily threat of rocket attacks. The United States should continue to pressure Hamas to abandon its reckless endangerment of both the Palestinian and the Israeli people, and to fully renounce violence so that humanitarian aid to Gaza can continue and true peace talks can proceed. It is only through such peace talks that the two countries will be able to reach a negotiated settlement that will bring peace, security, and stability to the Israelis and Palestinians.

BETTER USE OF LIGHT BULBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2417, the so-called Better Use of Light Bulbs (BULB) Act.

H.R. 2417 would repeal the lighting energy efficiency standards set in the Energy Independence Security Act (EISA) of 2007. This would be a major setback in improving energy efficiency in homes and buildings across the country. Commercial and residential lighting consume over 20 percent of all electricity generated in the United States. The new lighting standards will help to ensure that more energy efficient light bulbs, including incandescents and LEDs, are available to consumers in order to reduce energy use.

The BULB Act would also repeal California's state standards on lighting efficiency that went into effect earlier this year. In a letter from California Senator Darrell Steinberg, President pro Tempore, Senator Alex Padilla, Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications, and Senator Fran Pavley, Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water, opposing H.R. 2417, they note that the state's standards could save California consumers $35.6 million in electrical costs.

Mr. Speaker, the current lighting standard has generated domestic jobs as companies have created new and innovative lighting options for consumers. For example, Philips Lumileds Lighting Company has a manufacturing facility that makes LEDs for energy efficient LED light bulbs in San Jose, California. This facility creates hundreds of local jobs, while traditional incandescent light bulbs are mainly manufactured abroad. The EISA energy efficiency standard is an opportunity for the United States to build a domestic manufacturing industry, generating jobs and economic activity.

H.R. 2417 is a job killer, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting no on H.R. 2417.

HONORING THE TOWN OF EXETER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the families who petitioned the General Court in Boston on February 16, 1811, to incorporate the town of Exeter in the state of Maine. On July 23, 2011, Exeter officially celebrates its bicentennial.

At the time of the 1810 Census, Exeter was home to 140 people comprising 40 different families. Working together to settle and clear the land, a thriving community was established. In only the second official town meeting, the community voted to raise $200 for the purpose of building schools. The town went on to become famous for its apple orchards and its saw and grist mills, as well as the Exeter Fair, which occurred every September from 1867 to 1950, drawing families from all over New England.

Today, the people of Exeter celebrate the bicentennial of their town filled with the same local spirit and sense of common purpose that filled the founding 40 families as they petitioned to have their community recognized. These individuals embody the hardworking people of Maine who throughout our history have embraced the challenges and opportunities of living in our state.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Exeter, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to help this community celebrate its 200th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing all the citizens of Exeter well on this joyous occasion.

HONORING ELLIS COGDILL

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and veteran Ellis Cogdill.

Ellis Cogdill passed away Sunday, June 26th at the Alexander Cohen Hospice House in Hughson, CA after a devastating, albeit blessedly brief battle with cancer. Ellis was born in Stanberry, Missouri. He and his family lived and farmed in the area until Ellis enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age 17. He served 4 years as a radioman before being discharged from active duty in 1949. Ellis then returned home, where he met the love of his life, Viola Cruse, his soon to be devoted wife of over 61 years. A few months later, Ellis was called to serve again, during the Korean conflict, a duty that would last another 16 months and send him to China and the South Pacific.

In 1957 the family moved to California, settling in San Bernardino, where Ellis worked as a union meat cutter for Stater Bros. Markets for 33 years. In 1962 he was called to be a Deacon at Immanuel Baptist Church, where he diligently served the Lord for many years.

After retirement Ellis and Vi moved to Madera, and were active at the First So. Baptist Church. In 2005 Ellis and Vi moved to Modesto, living at Friendly Village MHP, and attending first, Orangeburg Ave. Baptist Church, then, the North Modesto Church of God.

Ellis loved to travel, spend time with his family and friends, help those in need, or do just about anything that was productive. Not one to play, he valued work, and never shirked a duty or a task. Those that knew him, knew his word was his bond, and as good as gold.

Ellis is preceded in death by his parents, Ellis Sr. and Mary Cogdill, and brother Tom Cogdill. He is survived by his wife and sons, Dave and Jim, and daughter Diana; daughters-in-law, Stephanie and Lisa; grandchildren David and Carrie, Meghan and Mike, Ryan and Brandon, Karma, Lauren, Joel and Moneshay; and great-grandchildren Connor, Kathleen, Xiomara, Christian, and Ashton.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ellis Cogdill for his service to United States of America and his example of excellence to those who knew him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 8, 2011 I was unable to be in Washington, DC and thus missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Nos. 528, 532, 533 and "nay" on Nos. 525, 526, 527, 529, 530, and 531.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the votes on July 7, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 503, the Lee amendment to reduce funding for combat operations in Afghanistan.

HONORING THE TOWN OF GREENVILLE, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the town of Greenville, Maine as it celebrates its 175th anniversary on August 27, 2011.

Nestled along the edge of the largest mountain lake in the eastern United States, the Greenville community's history in Maine precedes the establishment of the State itself. Its land, originally just 6 square miles, was granted by the Massachusetts General Court to Saco Academy in 1812. After acquiring the Academy in 1824, Nathaniel Haskell joined

with Oliver Young and John Smith in clearing trees near Wilson pond. It was just over a decade later that Henry Gower built the Seboomook House, and Greenville was incorporated from the Haskell Plantation.

In many ways, the history of Greenville stands in line with much of the State. Its residents have been farmers, lumbermen and mill workers. But somewhere between the cascades of Wilson's stream and the breathtaking vistas atop Indian Hill, the town puts forth its own unique identity. As the gateway to Moosehead and the Northern Woods, Greenville attracts thousands of visitors every year to witness the International Seaplane Fly-in, to ride the ''Kate'' up the lake or to camp in Maine's storied forests.

On August 27, this small town will celebrate its birthday with a week full of events and festivities commemorating this special milestone. I am pleased to share in the celebration as Greenville looks back on 175 years of rich and varied history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing all the citizens of Greenville, Maine, well on this joyous occasion.

IN MEMORY OF LEONARD EARL ROBERTS, SR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a tribute commemorating the life of Leonard Earl Roberts, Sr., a great husband, father, staff sergeant, and engineer. Mr. Roberts passed away last week, leaving a legacy of service to his family, friends, faith, community, and country. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Roberts and his lovely wife Mrs. Dessie Roberts during a visit to Washington a few years ago. I know that all who were close to him reflect on his memory with respect, admiration, and pride. While I did not know Mr. Roberts for an extended time, his grandson Marcus Mason is a great friend; I might add that his great-grandaughter Taelor served as an intern in my office for several summers. Mr. Roberts epitomized the Greatest Generation and a life well lived. I would like to submit the following heartfelt obituary for Mr. Roberts, written by his family.

THE LEGACY

''I hope you don't mind if we put down in words, how wonderful life has been with you in the world.''

December 30, 1925—Leonard Earl Roberts, Sr. entered the world at the height of the Harlem Renaissance. Born to Mary Queen Dorsey in Vidalia, Louisiana, Leonard Sr. was the eldest of five. Two brothers and one sister have preceded him in death. He attended and completed his secondary school education at Madison Parish Training School in Tallulah, Louisiana where he was an academic high achiever. He began demonstrating his engineering acuity by creating a hand carved, functioning orchestra that remained on display in the sandbox for several years following his graduation.

Leonard Sr. was no stranger to meeting and overcoming adversity. In his desire to serve his country he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at the young age of sixteen, where he participated in the efforts to rebuild our nation's infrastructure, supporting the economic recovery efforts from the Great Depression of the 1930s. Later that year, Leonard Sr. answered the call of his personal conviction and love of country and voluntarily enlisted in the US Army. Leonard Sr. stepped forward to defend our country following the events of Pearl Harbor, despite being under age. He quickly advanced to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Leonard Sr. was in the first wave to land on Omaha Beach during the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944 as part of Operation Overlord, coined D-Day by the world. He successfully led his platoon on many battles until his honorable discharge on December 7, 1945 at the close of the war. His entire outfit received the Bronze Indian Arrowhead for Assault Trooper, the Cor-De-Guerre, France's highest military honor, and several other medals and honors.

Upon his return home, he quickly sought, found and married his childhood sweetheart, and life-long love and soul mate, Dessie. Leonard Sr. and Dessie began to build their family while also engaging in his academic pursuits. Leonard Sr. moved to Boston, Massachusetts, taking advantage of the GI Bill, made available to WWII veterans, where he attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and received his Engineering degree. Leonard Sr. began his family while in Las Vegas, NV and became father to Donna, Janet and Leonard Jr.

Leonard Sr. moved his family to Los Angeles, California, where Jacqueline and Keith were born, to begin his lifelong career in the aerospace industry. He designed a four axis machine for specialized production of precision oversized aircraft parts which revolutionized the industry. In 1972, Leonard Sr. established Roberts Aerospace Manufacturing Engineering Corporation (RAMEC) and continued to receive coveted government contracts as a result of his expertise in precision manufacturing for nearly four decades until the time of his passing. He was well known in the industry as a man of integrity.

After supporting his wife's philanthropic pursuits in Christianity and community service for over fifty years, Leonard Sr. or ''Mr. Honey'' as he was often referred to by members of the sororities Order of the Eastern Star and Top Ladies of Distinction, joined First African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1998 where he attended faithfully. Leonard Sr. valued God, Country and family above all else, demonstrated by his marriage to Dessie for sixty-five years and his commitment to his children Donna, Janet, Leonard, Jr., Jacqueline and Keith. His love will live forever in the hearts of his grandchildren Allen Talbert, Kellie Clay (deceased), Chanel Troy-Thompson, Danielle Benoit-Williams, Natalie Roberts, Raquel Roberts-Richards and Bridgette Craddock and great-grandchildren Taelor Chanel Mason, Jeraud, Jeremiah Jr. and Jehman Williams, Carl Quincy Clay, II, Lauren, Sydney and Brandon Talbert, and Rameses Earl Roberts Richards.

Leonard Sr. will be lovingly remembered by his sister Dottie, his nieces Cheri, Donna and Shanel along with a host of other relatives and friends.

He recently imparted the profound statement to his loved ones, a motto which he lived by, ''Everything is manageable in a family.'' Leonard Sr. lived his life by anticipating the outcome of an effort before beginning the task.

On Tuesday, July 5th God descended to call him home. It mattered not how straight the gate or how charged with punishment the scroll, Leonard Sr. was the master of his fate, he was the captain of his soul.

BETTER USE OF LIGHT BULBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the BULB Act. Plain and simple—this bill will hurt our competitive advantage against China.

As my colleagues on the other side of the aisle bring this bill to the floor to take a step backwards & repeal light bulb efficiency, China gets it and they're leaping forward. This year China is spending over a billion dollars to make energy efficient lighting. China knows they can save consumers money while putting their country on track to create the largest LED industry in the world.

With efficiency requirements, we can compete. We can create American jobs making better light bulbs that meet the new standards. More than 2,000 jobs have already been created at factories around the country. In the U.S., there are between 12,000 to 14,000 jobs related to lighting.

I do not want to send those jobs to China by handing over the next generation lighting industry to them. The light bulb has been a symbol of American ingenuity since the late 1800s. When Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, it revolutionized our economy and electricity around the world. If America wants to lead, we need to become more efficient. That is the way of the future. Already, the new standards are prompting manufacturers to build new plants and create jobs making more energy efficient lighting here. In my Congressional District, Veeco has done just that. Veeco's employee count on Long Island has doubled from 150–300 from 2009 to 2011.

Lighting manufacturers have invested millions of dollars to develop new lighting technologies and improve old ones so they're 30 percent more efficient by the end of this year.

Efficiency isn't not about saving energy. It's about saving money and giving consumers a solid return on their investment. The BULB Act does nothing to save our constituents money.

Current standards would save the average American family $100 on their electricity bills. I know my constituents want that $100 in their pockets.

That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill to help save money and energy while supporting U.S. manufacturing.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAKING WORK AND MARRIAGE PAY ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Making Work and Marriage Pay Act of 2011. This legislation will establish a bipartisan commission to study the negative impact that high effective marginal rates can have on families as they attempt to improve their circumstances through work or marriage. The National Commission on Effective Marginal Tax Rates for Low-Income Families would provide an important opportunity for removing the

disincentives that hold many back, in spite of their personal efforts to get ahead.

Federal and state governments provide financial assistance to low-income families through many means-tested programs and a variety of income tax credits. Each of these benefits is income-based, and as income rises benefits are reduced through phase-outs. These reductions occur at various earnings levels and on differing schedules.

While it is appropriate for benefits to be withdrawn as family income increases, not enough thought has been given to the combined impact on behavior of these multiple phase-outs. Different programs are created within separate Congressional committees and are implemented by assorted federal and state agencies. No one entity has the authority to consider our vast system as a whole. The Commission established under this Act would be given this task and charged with the responsibility to propose a legislative package to remove the disincentives to work and marriage that these high effective marginal rates impose.

Marginal rates matter. Economists have long contended that high tax rates affect the investment decisions of affluent individuals. People at all income levels, however, respond rationally to economic incentives and disincentives. If we want people to work their way into the middle class, we need to change a system which says that if you're poor and you struggle to earn a higher income, you won't be able to keep enough of it to make it all seem really worthwhile.

I have looked at the impact these marginal rates have on a typical single mother with two children living in Wisconsin. From $17,000 to $40,000 in earnings, this single parent would experience combined effective marginal tax rates in excess of 50 percent—averaging 59 percent between $24,000 and $41,000. At lower income levels, she even approaches a rate of 100 percent. Putting this into perspective, the U.S. corporate tax rate is 35 percent (one of the highest in the industrialized world). The highest U.S. income tax rate for individuals is also 35 percent.

Thus, for every dollar of new income earned by increased effort or the acquisition of new skills, this single mother finds herself only incrementally ahead and, perhaps, wondering whether her hard work is being justly rewarded. Despite the good intentions, these programs, in effect, offer no incentive to get ahead. Rather, the incentives are backwards and low-income workers often are encouraged to stay where they are.

The same dynamic can also affect an individual's decision whether to marry. Experts from across the political divide agree that marriage is good. Government policy, however, as enacted in this assortment of programs and phase-outs actually discourages marriage among low-income couples.

Varying benefit levels across the fifty states produce different results, but in Wisconsin, for a married couple with two children, the marriage penalty starts rising from about zero at $19,000 of combined income to $7,000 in after-tax income at $28,000 of combined earnings, which is what you get if two people earn minimum wage. At $42,000, the cost of being married reaches $8,154. That's a high price for a marriage license.

This penalty results from the high effective marginal tax rates produced by taxes and the phase-out of various benefit programs. As income rises, taxes go up and benefits go down. The couple that has combined their lives and their income sees a steeper loss of income than does the comparable couple that has remained unmarried. If marriage is a recognized good for both society and the individual couples, then government policy should not stand in the way of people choosing to marry.

It's time that Congress rationalizes this web of programs to ensure that hard work brings rewards by removing the punishingly high effective marginal tax rates faced by low-income individuals and families.

This is why I am introducing the Making Work and Marriage Pay Act.

My bill would authorize a Commission made up of Cabinet Secretaries, Governors, and recognized policy experts to recommend solutions for the problems posed by these high effective marginal tax rates. The Commission would be constructed to achieve partisan balance, input from states offering a varying level of income support, and expert participation from government and private sector experts.

The Commission would be charged with seeking a solution along certain policy lines, but would have full authority to offer additional policy recommendations. The Commission's recommendations would be in the form of a legislative blueprint to ease consideration of its comprehensive solution by the wide range of Congressional committees.

For too long, Congress has neglected to clean up the mess of uncoordinated federal benefit programs. The Making Work and Marriage Pay Act is the first step toward a benefit structure that rewards work and effort and reflects our shared belief that marriage is the basis of stable communities. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting notice that I will not be able to attend the legislative sessions of the House of Representatives on the following dates that are currently scheduled. I will be absent from July 19 through July 22 and from August 2 through August 5 for the marriages of my daughter and my son.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2011 ''FORTY UNDER 40'' AWARD FOR EMERGING MAINE LEADERS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate MaineTodayMedia and the Recipients of the 2011 ''Forty under 40'' Award for Emerging Maine Leaders.

The ''Forty under 40'' Award is given annually by MaineTodayMedia to talented individuals under the age of forty who are making significant contributions to their career field and to the community at large. The award honors Maine's emerging generation of leaders by acknowledging their achievement and recognizing their potential. These fresh faces represent the future of our state as they come to fill the big shoes left by Maine's historic line of leaders.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize these distinguished individuals by name:

Wendy Ayotte, Jeff Badger, Josh Broder, Rob Brown, Kevin Bunker, Adam Burk, Lindsay Cadawallader, Michael Carey, Eric Conlon, Josh Davis, Gibson Fay-LeBlanc, Chelsea Fournier, Ben Fowlie, David Gulak, Shannon Haines, Erik Hayward, David Herring, Jr., Geoffrey Iacuessa, Drew Johnson, Charlie Longo.

Becky McKinnell, Corey Norman, Amanda O'Brien, Robert O'Brien, Shirar Patterson, Marc Pitman, Monica Quimby, Erica Quin-Easter, Brian Rayback, Jeremy Reynolds, Steve Sawczyn, Matthew Siegel, MD, Andrew Sigfridson, Liz Smith, Andrew Tenenbaum, Jesse Thompson, Scott Townsend, Jenna Vendil, Sean Wilkinson, Megan Williams.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating all the recipients of the 2011 ''Forty under 40'' Award for Emerging Maine Leaders and in thanking MaineTodayMedia for shining the spotlight on these outstanding individuals.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is $14,342,977,065,892.73.

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

This means the national debt has increased by $3,704,551,319,598.93 since then.

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

CONGRATULATING TRINITY BALLPARK FOR HOSTING C.A.B.A. MIDWEST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate, Trinity Ballpark located in Noblesville, Indiana, for hosting this year's C.A.B.A. Midwest National Championship.

The Continental Amateur Baseball Association was developed by Ron Golden and Roger Tremaine in 1984 to provide youth the privilege to compete at the national level. C.A.B.A. hosts events at the national level for age groups 9–18. Since C.A.B.A. was first started, thousands of teams from nearly every state along with other countries including Panama,

Guam, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Japan, and Canada have participated in C.A.B.A. Current Major League Baseball Stars, Alex Rodriguez and Todd Helton, were both Graduates of the Year of this superior organization.

I am proud to honor Trinity Ballpark for hosting this year's Midwest National Championship, and wish all the players the best of luck in the tournament. Today is a fine day to celebrate America's favorite pastime with elite players from all over the country.

A MODEL FORD

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert the following poem by Albert Carey Caswell into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This poem is a fitting tribute to former First Lady Betty Ford.

A MODEL FORD

In life . . .
Do we dance? Or do we stand?
A . . .
A Model Ford . . .
A strong woman, our Nation loved and adored . . .
Nothing Ordinary about her!
About this Ford!
From behind the scenes, a star was born!
Touching hearts, so very deeply . . . so very warm!
Who became an activist, for our nation this!
A role model for women to look up to!
Who evolved and into a work of art . . . so grew!
The only person a great President, owed anything to!
Took away the shame, that women knew . . .
Giving them courage to speak up and out, to fight Cancer too!
With her profiles of courage, out of her own diseases . . . creating something new!
A place for all to so face, and battle and fight their dark demons too . . .
For in you, we all so saw ourselves so too!
As the Betty Ford Clinic grew into a haven for saving lives so true!
A place on this earth so very bright, to win that battle that fight!
Oh Yes, oh how you spoke up and out for women's rights!
A Mother . . . A Wife . . . A First Lady so very bright . . .
An activist who so brought her light!
A Midwesterner, through and through!
A Michigander True Blue!
To bless our Nation, me and you!
A Model Ford, and a Cadillac of first ladies too . . . who now so who . . .
Is up in Heaven as but an Angel, with her husband Gerald too!
Because in the end, in your life Betty . . . you danced!

In Memory of a great First Lady and a giving American, Betty Ford

—By Albert Carey Caswell

HONORING THE TOWN OF EDDINGTON, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of the town of Eddington, Maine, as they celebrate their community's bicentennial.

In 1784, after the close of the Revolutionary War, Colonel Jonathan Eddy was granted 9,000 acres on the east bank of the Penobscot River in appreciation of his services during the conflict. This area would later be incorporated in 1811 as the town of Eddington, becoming the 184th town in the District of Maine. Working together to clear the land, the early settlers erected buildings, planted crops and built roads. Town records over the years from the individual villages show saw and gristmills, a post office, general stores, churches, schools and other large and small enterprises. The town of Eddington illustrates the spirit of industry and perseverance that Maine people throughout history have demonstrated in embracing the challenges and opportunities of living in our state.

Eddington has shared in many of our nation's experiences. There is evidence of the Underground Railroad, and in the Civil War, one-eighth of the total population of the town was in service. Industrialization brought railroads to neighboring towns, small factories, and electric lights. The depression hit hard as the lumber industry began to diminish and mills were relocated. The conflicts of the twentieth century called upon many Eddington residents to protect their country, state and community, but the members of this town have always risen to the challenge.

Today, the people of Eddington celebrate the bicentennial of their town filled with the same local spirit and sense of common purpose that filled the first families as they petitioned to have their community recognized. These individuals embody the hardworking people of Maine.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the people of Eddington. It is an honor and a privilege to represent them, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help Eddington celebrate its 200th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen family medical emergency yesterday morning, I was unable to vote on amendments to H.R. 2354 that were rollcall vote numbers 534–538. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way on the amendments: rollcall No. 534, Tiernery of Massachusetts Amendment, "nay"; rollcall No. 535, Graves of Missouri Amendment, "yea"; rollcall No. 536, Scalise of Louisiana Amendment, "yea"; rollcall No. 537, Woodall of Georgia Amendment, "yea"; rollcall No. 538, McClintock of California, "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE POVERELLO CENTER AND COMMEMORATING THE GRAND OPENING OF ITS NEW FOOD BANK AND THRIFT STORE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Poverello Center of Wilton Manors, Florida and commemorate the grand opening of its new food bank and thrift store. For 25 years, The Poverello Center has been an institution in the Broward County community, providing support services to men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS. With the dedication of its new, green facility at 2056 North Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors, The Poverello Center begins a new chapter in its mission of ensuring that individuals living with HIV/AIDS have life-sustaining food and basic living essentials.

The Poverello Center was founded in 1986 by Father Bill Collins, a man whose courage and compassion know no limits. At a time when many were turning their backs on individuals living with HIV/AIDS, Father Collins reached out to help them with the utmost understanding, respect, and love. Operating at first out of the trunk of his car, he used much of his pension to open the first Poverello food bank and thrift store in Pompano Beach. From those humble beginnings, The Poverello Center has continued to expand and improve its operations to better meet the needs of its clients.

Today, The Poverello Center provides a wide variety of support services to more than 2,500 low-income Broward County residents living with HIV/AIDS while protecting their privacy. Through its food bank, Poverello volunteers ensure that individuals receive 21 meals per week and meet the nutritional requirements necessary to remain adherent to their treatment. Furthermore, clients are given vouchers for clothing that can be redeemed in the Poverello thrift store. And, in order to help promote wellness and physical fitness, clients also have access to Poverello's full-service gym and alternative therapies annex.

Since Poverello's founding, Father Collins and his outstanding team of volunteers have helped over 12,600 lives touched by HIV/AIDS. Remarkably, they are able to provide these services completely free of charge. This would not be possible without the tremendous support of the community or critical HIV/AIDS programs at the state and national levels. That is why I pledge to continue doing everything in my power to help fund the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and other efforts that address the issues affecting individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize The Poverello Center's tremendous success and celebrate the dedication of its new home, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Father Bill Collins as well as each and every member of the Poverello team for all the hard work they continue to do on behalf of the AIDS community in Broward County and the least of us in our society. Their selflessness is a true inspiration to us all.

BETTER USE OF LIGHT BULBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2417 proposes to repeal bipartisan, common sense lighting efficiency standards signed into law by President Bush in 2007. These technology neutral standards simply call for efficiency improvements of 25 to 30 percent above traditional incandescent bulbs and are broadly supported by industry, environmental groups and consumers alike.

Mr. Speaker, lighting accounts for approximately 19 percent of our total electricity use. So the potential for energy savings in the lighting sector is substantial. In fact, when these new lighting efficiency standards take effect in 2012, they will save the average American household over $100 a year in lower electricity bills, negate the need for 30 large power plants and avoid approximately 100 million tons of carbon pollution, which is the equivalent of taking 17 million cars off the road.

Proponents of this bill falsely claim that these new standards will somehow eliminate incandescent bulbs or restrict consumer choice. In reality, major manufacturers including GE, Philips and Osram Sylvania are already manufacturing a number of bulbs—including incandescent bulbs—that meet the new efficiency standards. Additionally, these improved standards have drawn new entrants into the market, like North Carolina-based Cree, whose innovative LED products are creating jobs right here in the United States and giving consumers more choice, not less.

Mr. Speaker, the traditional incandescent bulb was invented over 100 years ago. We should no more turn back the clock on lighting efficiency than we should return to the days of ice boxes and the horse and buggy. This is fundamentally backward looking legislation that should be soundly rejected.

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE RICARDO M. URBINA

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Judge Ricardo Manuel Urbina for his distinguished career and long outstanding service to his community.

Over the course of his career as an NCAA track and field champion and Georgetown University honors graduate, he distinguished himself as an athlete and a scholar. In the early years of his life, Judge Urbina was frequently recognized for his exceptional athletic achievements which included his running in the 1968 Olympic trials. After receiving his law degree in 1970, he continued to break barriers with every stride further earning a stellar reputation as a trial lawyer, academician and tenacious advocate for the fair and equal administration of law.

In 1981 President Reagan appointed him to the DC Superior Court. Thirteen years later, President Clinton appointed Judge Urbina to serve on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia where he currently presides after thirty years of service on the bench.

I am inspired by Judge Urbina's steadfast commitment to the law and strict adherence to the highest ethical standards. Numerous lawyers, judges, and Latino leaders have had the privilege to be mentored by Judge Urbina and have benefited from his counsel and guidance. He has inspired a diverse network of people to strive to reach their fullest potential and pursue their dreams.

Judge Urbina's career exemplifies not only notable legal accomplishments and a long history of achievements in every arena of endeavor, but also a man's tireless efforts to improve the line of succeeding generations. Mister Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Judge Urbina for his thirty years of service on the bench, to wish him the best as he assumes senior status and to recognize the many contributions he has made to the administration of justice.

HONORING MAUREEN AUBÉ

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of Maureen Aubé of Auburn, Maine.

Maureen is the recent recipient of the Jim Phillips Award bestowed upon her by United Way of America. The Jim Phillips Award is given to an individual who exemplifies the missions, visions and values of the United Way. Jim Phillips served United Way in numerous capacities over the years: marketing committee, campaigner, board member and board chairman prior to his death in 2002. The award is now given to one whom exhibits a character of compassion that is visible throughout his or her business, personal and family life.

I have had the honor to know Maureen personally, and she more than meets these standards. The United Way of America defines community impact as ''mobilizing communities to create lasting changes in community conditions that improve lives.'' Maureen does just that. She has been a long-time volunteer with United Way, serving 4 terms on the Campaign Cabinet, as well as advocating for those in the National Guard and working on community revitalization and service projects through the Elks Club.

In addition to serving on the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce, Maureen is also a volunteer for the Public Theatre, the L/A Film Festival and the Regional Plan Advisory Committee. She also serves on the Ben Hayes Support Fund Committee.

Maureen has left a lasting mark on Androscoggin County and the state of Maine. On behalf of the people of Maine, it is with pride that I congratulate Maureen for her excellent work.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Maureen Aubé on the receipt of this award and in thanking her for her dedication to the people of Maine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 526, I voted ''yea,'' when I intended to vote, ''nay.''

HONORING PAUL SPANIOLA

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Paul Spaniola for his 83rd year as the owner of Paul's Pipe Shop in Downtown Flint. Paul's Pipe shop is a local landmark and has resided in the same location for over 48 years.

Paul was born in Owosso, Michigan on January 29th, 1913. At the age of 15 he opened his original location in Morrice, Michigan. Shortly after, in 1930, he moved the shop to Swartz Creek. In 1948 he moved to Flint's Downtown District, where he resides to this day.

Paul is a world renowned pipe smoker and his reputation precedes him in the competitive pipe smoking community. Paul is the only person to win the International Association of Pipe Smokers World Championship six times. He won his first championship in 1951 smoking for over 68 minutes, again in 1966, 1970, 1973, 1977, and his last in 1992 smoking for over 98 minutes.

Through his travels as shop owner and world champion, Paul was able to smoke a pipe with many interesting people and celebrities. One very notable occasion came about when he was asked to teach Susan Hayward how to smoke a pipe for her role in ''The President's Lady.'' Others include Charles Stewart Mott, Billy Martin and Gov. G. Mennen Williams. As well as maintaining his shop and winning championships Paul is involved in many local charities and community organizations.

Paul is known for his pipe shop but he is more than that. He is a devout Catholic and family man. Paul married Leona Merrill and had 11 children. In 1978, Leona passed away. Several years later, he married Doris Bloss and she had 3 children. All together, Paul has 14 children, 47 grandchildren, 74 great grandchildren and 10 great-great grand children.

Mr. Speaker I would like to congratulate my friend Paul Spaniola on his 83rd years in business and his commitment to the downtown area.

HONORING DR. DAVID BURR

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I join the friends and family of Dr. David Burr in mourning his passing earlier this week.

Dr. Burr, the father of Senator RICHARD BURR, was a faithful pastor to many over the course of his decades of service as pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. His was a life well lived and his passing leaves a great void in the community in which he was very active.

During his 90 years of life Dr. Burr exemplified an ethic of service. He served honorably in the Navy during World War II. He shepherded the flock at First Presbyterian with great care and compassion. And he never neglected the needs and lives of those around him in the community.

He was a great man who lived for God, who inspired by example and who will leave a legacy of love of which his family and friends can be proud.

Today the loved ones of Dr. Burr are in my prayers as they grieve this great loss and look forward to one day being reunited with a beloved husband, father, pastor and friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the votes on July 11, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall No. 534, the Tierney amendment to restore funding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction and Operation and Maintenance accounts, and I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall Nos. 535, 536, 537, and 538.

BETTER USE OF LIGHT BULBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my position on H.R. 2417, the Better Use of Light Bulbs Act. As a Member of Congress for nearly two decades, time and time again I have said that the best way to lower energy costs is to make homes, buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure more energy efficient. In the process, we also create jobs. I remain a steadfast supporter of energy efficiency initiatives, knowing that it is imperative for us as a country to develop an energy supply that is both sustainable and diverse in order to improve our quality of life and protect our environment.

My initial support in co-signing H.R. 2417 was to make light bulbs less expensive and more accessible for low-income families. People living in poverty and low-income elderly should not have to choose between paying their electric bill and buying food for themselves and their families. I initially added my name as a co-sponsor of this legislation with these citizens in mind; however, after hearing from the industry, my colleagues, and most importantly my constituents, I reconsidered my position on the bill and will vote against it.

HONORING PAUL SANTORO, CRNA, MS, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to my constituent Paul Santoro, CRNA, MS. Mr. Santoro will soon complete his year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am proud that Mr. Santoro was tapped as the 2010–2011 President of this prestigious national organization.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who administer approximately 32 million anesthetics to patients each year. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered including hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and specialty surgeons. They also provide acute and chronic pain management services to patients in need of such care. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and, in some states, are the sole anesthesia providers in rural hospitals.

Mr. Santoro has contributed greatly to the health care community in southeast Michigan. He is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Anesthesia Staffing Consultants, Inc. located in Bingham Farms, MI and a member of the allied medical staff at numerous hospitals and surgery centers in southeast and mid-Michigan. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Detroit Mercy with a bachelor's degree in science, and received his master's degree in nurse anesthesia from the Henry Ford Hospital/University of Detroit Mercy Nurse Anesthesia Program.

In addition to his current service as AANA President, Mr. Santoro has held various leadership positions in the AANA, including President-elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Region 3 Director, and has served on numerous committees. He is a former president of the Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Mr. Santoro is a distinguished speaker on anesthesia and health care economics and has lectured nationwide on the safety, value and cost-effectiveness of CRNA care. During his AANA Presidency, Mr. Santoro was an important advocate for the practice of nurse anesthesia and its patients before federal agencies and members of Congress. He has worked tirelessly to promote the value of CRNAs to our health care system.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Santoro today on a job well done. His service to the AANA and the patients of southeast Michigan is commendable, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his notable career and outstanding achievements.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment, submitted by my good friends and colleagues, Mr. TONKO and Mr. BASS, that would amend the Energy and Water Appropriations for fiscal year 2012. This important amendment restores funds to the fiscal year 2011 levels for the Weatherization Assistance Program and the State Energy Program.

The Weatherization Assistance Program funds are intended to assist low-income residents across America and in the Northern Marianas to improve energy efficiency, and reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions in their homes. The State Energy Program funds are used to upgrade the efficiency of government facilities, promote consumer products that carry the Energy Star® label, or invest in alternative fuel infrastructure. Both of these funds create an immediate benefit to those being helped and a long-term benefit to all of us by investing in our future and making America more energy efficient and independent.

Where I live in the Northern Mariana Islands, electricity rates are unusually high and energy efficiency is especially important due to the fact that the Northern Mariana Islands is warmer in climate. As of January 2011, the current base electric rate is 28 cents per kilowatt hour. While electricity rates are one of the highest in the nation, our minimum wage is only $5.05 an hour. Therefore, we rely on Weatherization Assistance Program to give funds to those who need the assistance the most and to alleviate the financial burden that energy use places on these low-income households.

The Northern Mariana Islands also benefit from the funds under the State Energy Program by creating programs like the Green Energy Project, which provided for solar panels and wind turbines at eleven of our public schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

In addition, both programs have the potential and a record of creating local jobs in the construction and energy sectors for all of our economies. I ask that my colleagues support the Tonko-Bass amendment. It is an amendment that helps those that need it most and invests in our future. Taking money away from these very important programs hurts our progress in energy efficiency and job creation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEONARD EARL ROBERTS, SR.

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Leonard Earl Roberts, Sr., a public servant and community leader, whose impact has been felt not only in Southern California but throughout the country. On July 5, 2011, Mr. Roberts passed away, leaving a legacy of service and patriotism. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him, but his example lives on in all of the lives that he touched.

Leonard Earl Roberts, Sr. was born in 1925—at the height of the Harlem Renaissance—to Mary Queen Dorsey in Vidalia, Louisiana.

Leonard, Sr. was no stranger to meeting and overcoming adversity. In his desire to serve his country, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at the young age of sixteen, where he participated in the efforts to rebuild our Nation's infrastructure during the economic recovery efforts from the Great Depression. Later that year, Leonard, Sr. stepped forward to defend our country following the events of Pearl Harbor, despite being under age, and quickly advanced to the rank of staff sergeant. Leonard, Sr. was in the first wave to land on Omaha Beach during the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944, as part of Operation Overlord, now known to most of the world as D-Day. He successfully led his platoon in many battles until his honorable discharge on December 7, 1945 at the close of the war. His entire outfit received the Bronze Indian Arrowhead for Assault Trooper, the Cor-De-Guerre—France's highest military honor—and several other medals and honors.

Upon his return home after military service, he sought out and married his childhood sweetheart, Dessie. Leonard, Sr. and Dessie moved to Boston, Massachusetts, taking advantage of the GI Bill and attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he received an Engineering degree. In the following years, Leonard and Dessie welcomed three children to the family—Donna, Janet, and Leonard, Jr.

Leonard, Sr. soon moved his family to Los Angeles, California—where children Jacqueline and Keith were born—to begin his lifelong career in the Aerospace industry which was his civilian way of continuing his service to our country. He designed a four axis machine for specialized production of precision oversized aircraft parts which revolutionized the industry. In 1972, Leonard, Sr. established Roberts Aerospace Manufacturing Engineering Corporation (RAMEC), and continued to receive coveted government contracts, as a result of his expertise in precision manufacturing for nearly four decades until the time of his passing. Equally of note, Mr. Roberts was well known in the industry as a man of integrity.

Leonard, Sr. valued God, Country and, above all else, family, which is demonstrated by his marriage to Dessie for sixty-five years and his commitment to his children. His love will live forever in the hearts of his Grandchildren Allen Talbert, Kellie Clay (deceased), Chanel Troy-Thompson, Danielle Benoit-Williams, Natalie Roberts, Raquel Roberts-Richards and Bridgette Craddock and Grandchildren Tealor Chanel Mason, Jeraud, Jeremiah Jr. and Jehman Williams, Carl Quincy Clay, II, Lauren, Sydney and Brandon Talbert, Rameses Earl Roberts Richards, and Marcus Sebastian Mason.

Leonard, Sr. will be lovingly remembered by his sister Dottie and his nieces Cheri, Donna and Shanel, along with a host of other relatives and friends.

He recently imparted the profound statement to his loved ones, a motto which he lived by, "Everything is manageable in a family." Leonard, Sr. lived his life by anticipating the outcome of an effort before beginning the task. It mattered not how straight the gate or how charged with punishment the scroll, Leonard Sr. was the master of his fate, he was the captain of his soul.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Leonard E. Roberts family. His passing is an enormous loss for my district, Southern California, and the Nation as a whole.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, today I rise in opposition to the H.R. 2354, the Fiscal Year 2012 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Bill. In particular, I oppose the provisions of this legislation that would rescind all remaining unobligated high-speed rail American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. The rescission would eliminate rail funding for the high-speed Chicago to Detroit line, eliminate thousands of jobs, and provide fewer travel options for my constituents.

Well over $492 million is cut from three projects, which are critical components of this high speed rail line. Even worse, these cuts would eliminate more than 13,000 jobs in a community where good paying jobs are few and far between.

High speed rail would give my constituents a viable and green commuting option in the Midwest. Having the ability to travel from Detroit to Chicago with the speed of a plane flight would open the doors to new business investments in the Metro Detroit area and connect major markets in the Midwest. It would be a win-win for consumers and business.

Mr. Chair, it is appalling that this body seems to lack the courage to strive for greatness for America.

Franklin Coolidge had that courage. He worked with Congress to create the Hoover Dam.

Dwight Eisenhower had that courage. He worked with Congress to create the National Highway System.

John Kennedy had that courage. He and Congress sent our country to the moon.

Where is this body's courage? Where is the belief that America can still do and build great things? Do we still have the desire to be the best, or will we let China lead the way on when it comes to manufacturing and high speed rail in the 21st Century?

I for one believe America can, and must, be a leader when it comes to investing in our country's economic future. I urge my colleagues to reject this defeatist bill and embrace a 21st century transit system.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORMER FIRST LADY BETTY FORD

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most influential and transformative First Ladies of our time, Betty Ford.

Born Elizabeth Ann Bloomer on April 8, 1918, Betty grew up in Michigan and studied dance, which ultimately helped lead her to the city of New York where she found work as a model and taught children to support her studies. In 1948, Betty married Gerald R. Ford, the future President of the United States, shortly before he began serving the first of his 13 successful terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mrs. Ford made it clear early on that her first priority was her family, but, it soon became apparent that would not be her only role in public life.

As First Lady during a particularly turbulent time for our Nation, Mrs. Ford spoke plainly and openly about the challenges confronting all Americans; and the people loved her for her candor and common sense. The Ford family reflected the core values of the American people, but, they were also not afraid to let the Nation see that their family was not perfect simply because it resided in the White House. Mrs. Ford spoke openly about the struggles their family faced and became one of the first women in public life to discuss her own battles with breast cancer and prescription drug addiction. Sharing her story raised the level of public consciousness and understanding of these important issues and made it "OK" for people to seek treatment and recovery.

Although her actions as First Lady had an immediate and profound impact on American culture, her work after she left the White House may have had the biggest impact on ensuring her lasting legacy as a leader in the recovery movement.

Following their time in the White House, President and Mrs. Ford relocated to Rancho Mirage, California and Vail, Colorado. As full-time residents of Rancho Mirage, they resided in the Congressional District which I would come to have the honor of representing, and I was incredibly proud to call the Fords constituents and dear friends. The Fords were fixtures in our desert community and many local residents counted them as friends. President and Mrs. Ford contributed greatly to countless worthwhile causes and generously shared that most precious of commodities, their time. In 2008, I proudly authored a bill designating their neighborhood post office as the "Gerald

R. Ford Post Office Building'' in honor of my mentor and friend, and Betty's beloved late husband.

In 1982, The Betty Ford Clinic, now known the world over as the Betty Ford Center, opened its doors on the Eisenhower Medical Center campus to provide those seeking treatment of alcohol and substance abuse addiction with a state of the art program to help them on their journey to recovery. Betty Ford, whose name has become synonymous with recovery and treatment, greeted countless patients and visitors with a simple salutation, ''hello, my name is Betty Ford and I'm an alcoholic and drug addict.'' Nearly 30 years later, over 90,000 people have been treated at the center, including those of humble means to some of the wealthiest and most famous celebrities in the world.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Prescription Drug Abuse, I dedicate my work on the caucus to her memory and will continue to work tirelessly to advance the causes to which Mrs. Ford devoted much of her adult life. As a woman, I am especially grateful for the path she blazed, and consider her a great role model for any generation of women who want to make our Nation and the world a better place.

And as someone whose family, like so many others, has been affected by addiction, I am personally forever indebted to Mrs. Ford and have the utmost respect for her leadership on this important issue. Mrs. Ford was a great First Lady, a remarkable woman and valued friend. Our Nation has lost a national treasure with her passing, and I extend my deepest condolences to her family and all those who loved her.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating the life and contributions of First Lady Betty Ford, who departed this earth on July 8, 2011. Her memory will live on through her many good works and our country is enriched for her life and service. May God Bless her, and God Bless America.

BETTER USE OF LIGHT BULBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2417, the BULB Act. This bill does nothing to shed light on a bipartisan law that will save families money on their energy bills. In fact, this bill repeals that common-sense law.

A question has been circulating in the media regarding this bill lately—how many Members of the House does it take to change a light bulb?

The answer, at least in 2007, was 314—that's the number of House Members who voted for the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Of those 314 Members 95 were Republicans—so was the President who signed the bill into law.

Why? Because this was a good, common-sense idea: Let's make new light bulbs that use 25–30 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs by 2012, and 65 percent less by 2020.

For families, that means an average savings of $200 a year. In Hawaii, where we pay some of the highest energy prices in the country, families will save approximately $225. The Department of Energy estimates that these standards will save U.S. households nationally $6 billion in 2015 alone.

What's even better: Improving energy efficiency has also helped spur innovation on the part of U.S. manufacturers—creating an estimated 2,000 American jobs to date and giving Americans even More offerings to choose from when it comes to light bulbs.

That's right: Americans have even more choices when it comes to light bulbs. This bipartisan law did not outlaw any type of bulb.

Consumers can still choose to purchase the familiar looking bulbs that were initially invented by Thomas Edison—the only difference is that the new ones use up to 30 percent less electricity. So the idea that this bill is limiting consumer choice is simply false.

But there are many other benefits as well to improving the energy efficiency of our light bulbs: The National Resources Defense Council estimates that over the long-term these standards will save as much energy as produced by 30 large power plants each year. They will also help prevent 100 million tons of carbon dioxide from polluting our air annually.

So these standards will help to expand consumer choice, save families money, increase energy efficiency, lessen air pollution, and create jobs.

Given the state of the economy, it seems to me that instead of wasting time trying to repeal a law that has been such a success, we should be spending our time trying to pass more laws like it.

So I hope that we will short-circuit this ideologically driven legislation, and keep the lights on at the factories and in the homes of the people who are benefitting from these standards.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, as someone who cares deeply about the State of Israel and the rights of the Palestinian people, I have serious concerns with H. Res. 268. This resolution does not advance U.S. interests, fails to contribute constructively to reviving the dormant peace process, and ignores the courageous efforts of Israelis and Palestinians willing to take the very difficult steps needed to achieve peace. Therefore, I cannot endorse a congressional statement that does not further the cause of peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians.

Last month, I visited Israel and the West Bank as a member of a fact finding mission sponsored by the J Street Education Fund. In every meeting I had with Israelis and Palestinians they shared their hopes for the future. They expressed their desires for peace. They want to live with security. They want the opportunity to make their own futures. Everyone I met with, from Israeli government officials to regular citizens, from President Abbas to Palestinian civil society leaders, said the status quo is unacceptable and a ''two-state solution'' is the only outcome that will ensure security and a lasting peace.

Yet, is a ''two-state solution'' achievable? This is increasingly unclear as Israel and Palestinians continue to take unilateral steps that weaken the prospect for negotiations leading to a comprehensive and final peace agreement. This is both disappointing and detrimental to the ultimate goal both sides claim they seek.

For example, the Palestinian Authority's diplomatic quest to seek recognition from the United Nations for an independent ''State of Palestine'' is a mistake, despite the legitimate and deeply felt desires of the Palestinians to live in their own free, independent and sovereign state. I told senior Palestinian officials directly when I was in the West Bank that such a move is not helpful to their goal or U.S. efforts to advance the peace process. Regardless of the outcome of any actions taken at the United Nations in September, the only path to a legitimate, lasting Palestinian state will be the result of a negotiated agreement with Israel. This is the path that both sides must continue to pursue.

With regard to the unity government between Fatah and Hamas, it will likely be impossible for a legitimate peace process and final negotiated agreement to take place with the Palestinian people governed by two distinct political entities. Hamas and Israel are at war, thus the term: Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A peace process that allows the Palestinians to be fragmented and factionalized will not yield peace or security, only lasting conflict—Palestinian against Palestinian, as well as Palestinian against Israeli.

Hamas must agree to the Quartets conditions, but then again there is no possibility that Israel would ever negotiate a final agreement without such conditions. If in-fact Fatah and Hamas (with the on-going help of Egypt) can work together to achieve legitimacy within the international community by renouncing terrorism and recognizing the State of Israel then there is a real opportunity for a path to peace. If this is not possible then I am doubtful the peace process will advance to the point where a Palestinian state can be created.

H. Res. 268 highlights that the U.S. has ''provided more than $3.5 billion cumulatively in direct bilateral assistance to the Palestinians'' and calls for an end of U.S. assistance if the unity government does not embrace the Quartets principles. The foreign assistance the U.S. provides the Palestinian Authority contributes to economic stability, security training, infrastructure development, and the building of democratic institutions—the foundation of a future Palestinian state. This aid not only benefits the Palestinian people and their nascent institutions, but Israel as well. Israel cannot negotiate a peace agreement and end the occupation of Palestinian lands if a future a Palestinian state is not viable. Cutting off aid would harm both Palestinian and Israeli interests.

If Congress actually were to cut off aid it would also send a signal to the entire Arab world that the U.S. has abandoned the Palestinian people. The damage to the U.S. status in the Arab and entire Muslim world would be incalculable.

Based on the text of H. Res. 268 it would appear that it is only the actions of Palestinians that undermine the possibility of a negotiated peace. There is no mention in the resolution of, for example, illegal Israeli settlement expansion into Palestinian lands. Obviously illegal Israeli settlements and outposts are a contentious and serious obstacle to peace. Israeli settlements and their continued expansion have been universally condemned by the world community because they make a contiguous Palestinian state increasingly impossible to achieve. If a ''two-state solution'' is ever to be achieved the settlement issue must be confronted, not ignored as Congress has chosen to do in this resolution.

The policy realities that must be confronted and resolved to achieve a ''two-state solution'' are complex, sometimes painful, and often fraught with traps. Yet, for many in Congress, ''two-state solution'' has become a phrase that has many different definitions, most of which could never result in a peace agreement or the creation of a Palestinian state. Member of Congress can utter the phrase ''two-state solution'' and then act to make such a solution less possible. This resolution is an example of such a proclivity.

In my estimation achieving a ''two-state solution'' will require the U.S. to maintain its traditional role as honest-broker in this decades long conflict. During my visit to the region I was constantly surprised by both Israelis and Palestinians who innocently and insistently called upon the U.S. to resolve the conflict, create the environment for negotiations, and achieve the goal of a two-state solution. I reminded everyone I encountered that the responsibility and burden of making the difficult political choices for peace were theirs and not something the U.S. can dictate.

There is no doubt that the U.S. must maintain and strengthen the special relationship we have with the State of Israel. Israel is a trusted ally and will remain so long into the future. At the same time the U.S. has the opportunity to play a historical role in the creation of a new Palestinian state, allowing for the self-determination of the Palestinian people and greater security for Israel.

These relationships provide the U.S. with the opportunity and obligation to remain faithful to facilitating negotiations and putting the difficult, uncomfortable issues to be resolved on the table with the goal of achieving a final peace agreement. President Obama deserves credit for holding both sides accountable and for making both sides feel uncomfortable. If the U.S. abandons our traditional honest-broker role to become an advocate for Israel or Palestinians then this conflict will never be resolved, it will likely simmer and boil over into a future of violence that we should all fear.

Israelis and Palestinians—and the Americans who care deeply about the future of Israel as well as a future Palestinian state—deserve much more than this resolution offers. They deserve an honest, open, and constructive debate that advances U.S. interests for peace, security, democracy, dignity, freedom, and self-determination throughout the Middle East. The future of Israel is at stake. The future is at stake for millions of Palestinians seeking a national identity and the freedom to make their own state. The American people deserve more than what H. Res. 268 offers.

On H. Res. 268 I will vote present. This resolution is another example of U.S. domestic political interests trumping the best interests of U.S. foreign policy. If a ''two-state solution'' is to be a reality this resolution does not get Israelis or Palestinians one inch closer to negotiations. Congress should be investing it time and energy as an honest-broker encouraging both sides to end the posturing and cease the obstructions to negotiations. Time is running out and we should be encouraging a revival of the peace process and focused negotiations—before it is too late.