

which the mother had unwittingly transmitted to her fetus.

But these problems do not end with children. These chemically-induced changes linger into adulthood. Forty-one percent of Americans will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, and about 21 percent will die from that cancer. When we look at these trends, it becomes glaringly obvious that something in our environment is making us sick.

There is mounting evidence suggesting that these alarming public health trends are the result of chemicals in the environment that disrupt the endocrine system. Small amounts of these chemicals, or mixes of these chemicals, it has been shown, can have a huge impact on our health and ultimately American healthcare costs. As a result, health groups including the Endocrine Society, The Endocrine Exchange, and renowned scientific authorities like Dr. Fred S. vom Saal have all endorsed this bill.

The Endocrine Society, the world's oldest and largest professional organization devoted to endocrine research, found that "endocrine disruptors have effects on male and female reproduction, breast development and cancer, prostate cancer, neuroendocrinology, thyroid, metabolism and obesity, and cardiovascular endocrinology." Based upon these findings they recommended that we increase "basic and clinical research."

In addition to these troubling human diseases, we're also seeing chemically-induced changes in wildlife. In parts of the Potomac River, 100 percent of the studied male small mouth bass are intersex—meaning that they are carrying both male and female reproductive organs. We are eating these fish and we are drinking the water that they swim in. Because of this, Trout Unlimited, one of the largest fisheries conservation organizations in the country, also endorsed this bill. As I said years ago when intersex fish were first reported, this discovery should serve as our early warning telling us that something is gravely wrong.

Close to 14 years ago, Congress enacted legislation requiring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish an Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program. To date that endeavor has focused primarily on pesticides, to the exclusion of other chemicals. The agency has been hamstrung by its use of old science and interference by the chemical industry.

This bill will facilitate increased study and regulation of endocrine disrupting chemicals. It will require that the government focus on the chemicals of most concern, to which people are exposed through drinking water, food, household items, toys, and personal care products. It will empower federal agencies with jurisdiction to consider a range of peer-reviewed scientific sources of information on toxicity, and to act quickly in regulating substances found harmful to human health.

Finally, for those chemicals that scientists overwhelmingly agree are the most hazardous, the bill will restrict them only to uses that ensure they cannot get into human bodies. Twenty-four months after scientists find that a chemical is an endocrine disruptor, that chemical will be banned unless the industry using that chemical can ensure that it will not enter our food, our water, or our bodies.

It is time to take action. It is time we increase research on these chemical impacts. And it is time for the most dangerous chemi-

cals to be controlled. The Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Exposure Elimination Act of 2011 will do just that.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA LAYOG OF  
MONTCLAIR, VA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joshua Layog of Montclair, Virginia, for his participation in the People to People World Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

People to People offers young leaders the opportunity to grow educationally while exposing them to new cultures. Founded in 1956 under the auspices of the Eisenhower Administration, People to People has continuously enjoyed Presidential support for its mission of instilling our nation's next generation of leaders with the international experience they will need to succeed in an increasingly global society and economy.

Joshua's acceptance to the program is no small accomplishment. Academically selective, the program is built for the brightest students in the nation. From June 20–24, Joshua participated in numerous educational activities in the Washington, D.C., area, all of which were focused on leadership development. Joshua and his fellow participants gained access to areas of American government rarely seen at such a young age, and that experience will serve him well in his studies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joshua Layog and wishing him continued success in the future.

HONORING JIMMY SMITH FOR HIS  
SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE  
NORTH COAST INTEGRATED  
REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT  
PLAN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jimmy Smith, chairman of the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCIRWMP) Policy Review Panel for 7 years, honoring his dedication to, and his achievements toward, healthy North Coast communities and ecosystems.

Mr. Smith has become known for his inclusiveness, diplomacy, and transparent leadership style through his work on the Policy Review Panel. He played a critical role in shepherding the North Coast through its first project prioritization process, helping the panel make difficult policy decisions to reduce the NCIRWMP's priority funding list from \$50 to \$25 million.

Mr. Smith led the panel through the unanimous adoption by the region's seven county Boards of Supervisors of the first and second phases of NCIRWMP. His leadership was instrumental in securing more than 70 signatures to the NCIRWMP Memorandum of Mutual Understanding.

Mr. Smith hosted the NCIRWMP's first Integrated Regional Water Management Conference, bringing more than 250 attendees to the North Coast region, representing over 50 entities comprised of local governments, tribes, legislators, agencies, watershed groups, providing a greater awareness of water management issues, watershed functions and future policy and funding opportunities.

Mr. Smith's oversight of the NCIRWMP top ranked proposals has brought more than \$41 million to the North Coast. He worked for months on behalf of the entire North Coast community during the 2008 California "bond freeze" to minimize economic impact on disadvantaged communities and to ensure that the North Coast's priority infrastructure and environmental projects were able to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize my friend Jimmy Smith for his dedication and contributions to the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and dedication to our community.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE LAND CONSERVANCY  
OF NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Land Conservancy of New Jersey, located in Morris County, New Jersey, in celebration of thirty years of successful land preservation.

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey was founded on July 30, 1981 by Russell W. Meyers, with the goal to preserve land and water resources, conserve open space, inspire and empower individuals and communities and to protect natural land and environment. The Conservancy has worked with 58 municipalities in 11 counties, impacting over half of New Jersey's counties, and benefiting millions of residents throughout the state. The Conservancy has established an Aresty Mapping Center to produce professional, computer generated maps used throughout the state to target open space lands for preservation.

Concerned with preserving open space and protecting New Jersey's drinking water and other natural resources, the Conservancy helped to pass the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act and the Highlands Stewardship Act in 2004.

The Conservancy has won several awards over the past 30 years, including the Take Pride in America National Award, given by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2005. This award recognizes volunteer projects for youth organizations, corporations, and public/private partnerships among other categories.

In 2010 alone, the organization completed 27 projects and preserved over 1,364 acres of land. The Conservancy's devoted staff has worked closely with state and local government officials and agencies to make these projects possible.

This year their goal has been to preserve another 25 properties and 1,500 additional acres.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Land Conservancy of New Jersey for its 30 years of dedicated work on behalf of the great state of New Jersey.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM KINZINGER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 23, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Chair, there is no bigger supporter in this body of the Air Force than me. For nearly ten years, I have been privileged to serve my country in the Air Force and Air National Guard as a pilot. During that time I often thought, "If I am willing to fight for my country on the outside, I must be willing to defend and preserve our country for future generations on the inside." Today I rise in support of my amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, H.R. 2219. My amendment would save the U.S. taxpayers nearly \$100 million by not allowing the Air Force to redevelop the current flight suit.

Since coming to this House, my colleagues and I have been working diligently to determine essential versus non-essential government spending projects. One area I wanted to examine more closely was a \$100 million project to develop a new flight suit for the Air Force, called the "Integrated Aircrew Ensemble." This flight suit is not being developed in response to specific needs of the Air Force's next-generation fighter, the F-35 Lightning II. Rather, it is designed to integrate the already existing protections which are included in our current flight suit.

In February, at the Air Force's 2012 budget hearing, Chief of Staff General Norton Schwartz was asked—at my request—whether the Air Force was developing a new flight suit. General Schwartz stated, "We are not in the business of redesigning our flight suit under the current circumstances." Since his testimony, General Schwartz said this quote is "accurate but incomplete," and does not represent his position on the flight suit contract.

Our office met with management from TIAX LLC, the company awarded the contract. After reviewing the information from TIAX and speaking with many of my fellow pilots who fly different aircrafts, I remain confident that the current flight suit provides more than adequate protection.

Over the past 10 years, the Air National Guard has not had a single G-LOC (induced loss of consciousness due to excessive G-force) Class A mishap, while the Air Force has had 5 G-LOC Class A mishaps. Of those 5 Air Force Class A mishaps, 3 occurred in an F-16 aircraft, while the other two occurred in a T-6 and T-37, respectively. The Air Force was unable to provide details surrounding the T-6 and T-37 Class A mishaps; however, they were able to provide the details sur-

rounding each of the F-16 Class A mishaps. In each of those cases, the pilot flying the F-16 was performing Basic Fighter Maneuvers (BFM) under the supervision of an instructor pilot. It is important to note that all of these accidents took place in a training environment and by young pilots still honing their skills. In none of the executive summary reports surrounding those accidents was the flight suit noted as a contributing factor toward causing G-LOC.

For these reasons, it is my strong belief that updating and integrating the flight suit will not be the panacea that proponents of the program claim in terms of protecting against these types of G-LOC Class A mishaps. Protecting against G-LOC has much more to do with the innate physical abilities of our pilots and the training they receive than any flight suit they will wear.

These findings led me to offer an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to postpone the flight suit development and save taxpayers nearly \$100 million. This amendment was adopted into the NDAA, which passed the House by a vote of 322-96.

Many of my colleagues in the House support this amendment, including Congressman SAM JOHNSON (R-Texas), a twenty-nine-year Air Force veteran, former POW in Vietnam, former Director of the Fighter Weapons School and pilot with the Thunderbirds. He said, "With men and women in harm's way in three different wars, the Air Force shouldn't even think about using scarce dollars for new flight suits."

My other colleague, Congressman PETE OLSON (R-Texas) said, "As a former Navy Aviator, I know firsthand that our current flight suits provide all of the protection and comfort our aviators need. Our nation is facing record debt and deficits and as such, we must apply careful scrutiny over every new project we are looking to fund. If I thought for one second that our pilots were in danger, I would be the first to support a new flight suit, but the reality is that this is a \$100M solution looking for a problem."

Senator KIRK (R-IL) also stated, "While nothing takes precedence over protecting and arming our troops in the field, we still have a responsibility to protect taxpayers from excessive spending. Given our current fiscal situation, we must make tough decisions to ensure that tax dollars are spent efficiently—even at the Pentagon. Cutting a \$100 million program the Air Force says it does not need is exactly the kind of spending restraint the American people want to see from Congress."

Make no mistake, I am committed to ensuring our military is the strongest and best equipped in the world. However, we must make tough decisions with regard to military needs and military wants. I was sent to Washington to make difficult decisions, even those that require the military to prioritize its spending.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLARD  
OVERTON

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, the Almighty God has called to his eternal rest, Mr. Willard Overton; and

Whereas, Willard Overton was born on April 9, 1935 to the parentage of Arthur Overton Sr. and Osca C. Presley in Chicago, Illinois and was the 7th of 9 children; and

Whereas, Mr. Overton received his formal education in the Chicago Public Schools and worked for 31 years at AT&T Western Electric Hawthorne Works and retired at the age of 47, as the youngest person ever to retire from this company; and

Whereas, he received many awards and commendations for his outstanding works; and Whereas, Willard was a very talented, bright, accomplished, witty and intelligent person who was committed to protecting and improving the quality of life; and

Whereas, he was actively involved with Provident St. Mel High School and was a regular and skilled debater on WVON and other radio talk shows: now be it

*Resolved*, that we pause and pay tribute to Mr. Willard Overton on a very outstanding and productive life.

On a personal note, Bill's niece Levogne and my wife Vera were best friends and worked together in the Business Department at Collins High School; brother Ray made my first political sign and Al had a variety store in front of my office on Cicero Avenue and was a benefactor to many of our community activities; and niece Crystal is a community and political activist who is involved with many of the public things that I do. A great family, I am proud to know them.

FALL RIVER CHAMBER URGES  
RESPONSIBLE ACTION

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, an organization with which I am proud to work closely on behalf of economic development in the Greater Fall River Area, and for sensible national policies, the Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce, recently published in the Fall River Herald News a very thoughtful article which "respectfully urges Congress to place the nation ahead of party politics by raising the federal debt limit without delay." The Chamber notes that "failure to increase the statutory debt limit in a timely fashion can have a significant and long lasting negative impact on any potential recovery in the towns and cities of the South Coast."

Mr. Speaker, the Chamber understandably and correctly notes that they are "extremely concerned about the level of the federal debt and the unchecked annual budget deficits that have become the new normal in Washington, DC". I also agree with them that "the U.S. government must learn to spend more wisely." And I believe that they have the sequencing of these issues in the correct form when they close by urging those of us in Congress to "raise the federal debt ceiling and set in motion a dialogue to curb unchecked federal spending." I believe it is essential that we raise the debt ceiling and avoid negative economic consequences, and at the same time commit ourselves to adopting a set of policies that will substantially reduce the deficit over