

consideration the bill (H.R. 1315) to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the so-called "Consumer Financial Protection Safety and Soundness Improvement Act," which would weaken the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, just as it is beginning its work on behalf of American consumers. While its supporters claim this bill is innocuous, it would water down the CFPB's ability to issue consumer protections and subject new proposals to an additional layer of bureaucratic review.

It is noteworthy that the Republican majority has brought this bill to the floor one year after Congress passed sweeping reforms and consumer protections for the nation's financial sector, maybe to blunt any press coverage on the launch of the CFPB. With no chance of this bill becoming law, House Republicans are sending a message to big banks and financial institutions that they are fighting to protect their interests, not the interests of American consumers.

But House Republicans are sending another message—that they still fail to understand the causes of our current economic troubles. If we have learned any lesson from the financial crisis of the last several years, it should be that by protecting consumers we can protect the rest of the financial system.

It is clear that the consumer credit and housing bubbles of the last decade were the result of unfair and deceptive practices of credit card companies and lenders that steered families into financial products that they did not understand and that they could not afford to repay.

Congressional Republicans claim the CFPB will be a cumbersome bureaucracy that will be a drag on the marketplace. All we need to do is look at the CFPB's first reform effort—simplifying the long, tedious paperwork consumers face when purchasing a home down to a short, simple form—to know that Republican claims have no merit.

I am hearing different messages from consumer advocates like AARP and the Consumer Federation of America and my constituents. They know that transparency in consumer financial products is long overdue and they support the CFPB.

A free marketplace can only function properly if consumers can make well-informed decisions about financial products, whether they are home mortgages or credit cards. The American people deserve a strong, effective CFPB. We should allow it to do its work, and that is why I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY FAIR ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey County Fair on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. The mission of

the Fair, to create, produce and offer quality events in their unique setting of 22 oak-studded acres, has educated, entertained and inspired our people for 75 years.

The Monterey County Fairground is a State owned Multi-Use Facility, generating \$22.9 million annually in spending activity over its history and contributing 300 full-time and part-time jobs. This year's theme, chosen by the 7th District Agricultural Association, will be "Horse'n Around" and was inspired by the artwork of artist Jo Mora. This summer, from August 31st to September 5th, livestock demonstrations, displays and auctions will recall and promote the rich agricultural heritage and diverse resources of Monterey County. The money raised from the auctions goes towards scholarships for local students and includes the participation of over 5,000 of Monterey County's youth through the Future Farmers of America and 4-H programs.

The Monterey County Fair prides itself on being an inclusive environment where everyone in Monterey County can join in the festivities. Seniors' Day, Kids' Day, Special Friends' Day and Military Day ensure that citizens of all abilities and income levels can participate and enjoy the fair.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to hold up the Monterey County Fair as a model for other community and cultural events. On behalf of the whole House, I acknowledge the valuable contributions of the Monterey County Fair, and invite the community to join the celebration of its 75th Anniversary. May their continued success inspire many more generations to celebrate our agricultural and cultural heritage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 21, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 612.

IN HONOR OF TERRANCE R. DUNCAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of my good friend, Terrance Duncan, who is retiring from the Superior Court of California of Monterey County on August 17, 2011. Terry honorably served as a judicial officer in the Monterey County Courts for over 29 years. We shared the Monterey Court-house as a workplace before he was sworn in as a Court Commissioner.

Since Terry's appointment as a Municipal Court Commissioner in 1982, he worked tirelessly to help serve justice in Monterey County. In 1995 he was elected as a Municipal Court Judge and elevated to the Superior Court in 2000. As a judge Terry presided over thousands of criminal and civil cases in Salinas, Monterey, and King City. From 2003 to 2005 he served as the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Terry's dedication to the teaching of the legal system is inspiring. He served as an instructor for the California Center for Judicial Education and Research where he taught judicial skills and ethics to both new and experienced Judges. Throughout California, Terry educated students in places like the California Judicial College, the Stanford Law School Trial Advocacy Program and the Monterey College of Law Community Education Program.

Terry has also been an active member of the legal community by being a part of many prestigious organizations. He served as an Officer and Director of the California Judges' Association, was President of the California Court Commissioners' Association, and he was also the President of the Board of Trustees of the Monterey College of Law.

Not only is Terry an active member of his professional community but he has also been heavily involved with helping the community of Monterey County. He was the founder in 1989 and President of Monterey County Sober Graduation which is an all-volunteer organization that introduced the concept of sober graduation activities for high school seniors. Terry was also President of the Monterey Kiwanis Club and director of the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula (SCRAMP). SCRAMP is an organization that makes major donations to charities each year. Terry also served as a Board President of the Beacon House alcohol recovery home in Pacific Grove, along with numerous other community activities serving those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House as I commend the contribution Terry has made to Monterey County's justice system. This is not the end of a career of service to the legal system for I know that Terrance will continue to serve the County of Monterey and the legal community in other capacities. Our region is fortunate to have the quality of leadership that Judge Terrance Duncan exemplifies.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARINE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS NICOLE EMMONS FOR BEING SELECTED AS THE MILITARY TIMES COAST GUARD SERVICE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Marine Science Technician Second Class Nicole Emmons, of Clearwater Florida, for her selection as the Military Times Coast Guard Service Member of the Year. Nicole exemplifies the best in our nation's military and serves as a shining example of how one person can make an impact at the community, the state and the national level.

Nicole Emmons was chosen as both the Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles, Louisiana and the Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston's Enlisted Person of the Year by area Chiefs, Senior Chiefs and Master Chiefs. Working with the Contingency Preparedness/ Incident Management Division at Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles, Nicole contributed countless hours to stand-up her unit's first Homeland Security Division. As one of three Law