EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANIMAL REFUGE LEAGUE IN PORTLAND, MAINE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, in 1911, the Animal Refuge League in Portland, Maine was incorporated and in 1956, former Maine Governor Percival Baxter helped fund and establish the League's new location on Stroudwater Street in Westbrook, Maine. Each year, the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland (ARLGP) rescues and places more than 4,000 dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, gerbils and other animals all around Maine each year. The dedicated staff and volunteers nurture wounded, neglected and abandoned animals so they can be placed in loving homes. The organization has an impressive 92 percent placement rate for cats and dogs, which is among the highest in the country.

This year, the Animal Refuge League marks its one hundredth anniversary. In addition to fulfilling its original mission to provide temporary care and permanent shelter for stray, abandoned and relinquished animals, the ARLGP is also developing innovative programs to meet the needs of Maine communities in new ways.

Through Paws in Stripes, the ARLGP maintains a working relationship with Maine Correctional Center in Windham whereby the prisoners play a major role in the socialization of select puppies from the shelter. A new Seniors to Seniors program matches senior citizens with senior cats, and the ongoing foster program works with families to provide temporary homes to animals who need time, rest, recuperation, medical care or socialization before they are ready for adoption. Humane Education is a program that teaches children of all ages respect for all living things.

As someone who spent years working as an organic farmer, I have a deep appreciation for the many roles that animals play in all our lives. Today, I am happy to celebrate the ALRGP's one hundred years of successful work rescuing animals. Congratulations, and thank you for the work that you do.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Andrew Bosch for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. For his Eagle Scout Project Andrew provided plant and tree identification markers for a local Historic Park. By applying these concepts to daily life, Andrew has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Zachary Peter Stephens for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. For his Eagle Scout Project Zachary completed a restoration project of a garden area called the Harbor House. By applying these concepts to daily life, Zachary has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ADMIRAL MICHAEL G. MULLEN'S 43 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Admiral Michael G. Mullen, for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Admiral "Mike" Mullen will retire as the highest-ranking officer in the United States Armed Forces and the President's principle military advisor. His service spans more than four decades of active military duty to the United States Navy and the Department of Defense.

Born in Los Angeles, California, Admiral Mike Mullen was commissioned into the Navy after graduating with the Class of 1986, from the United States Naval Academy. His rise in the Navy began at sea, when Ensign Mullen reported aboard the destroyer, USS *Collett*, as an Anti-Submarine Officer. While aboard the ship, he deployed to the Western Pacific and participated in combat operations off the coast of Vietnam. Afterwards, he subsequently served on six other warships, including command of three of those vessels at sea, and he commanded the George Washington Carrier Strike Group and United States Second Fleet. His shore assignments have been focused in the areas of resourcing and personnel which included duty with the Bureau of Personnel, the Navy staff, and the staff of the Secretary of Defense. He helped train, educate, and mentor future generations of naval officers during tours at the United States Naval Academy. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated exemplary service in duty to the mission and care for his sailors.

In August 2003, Admiral Mike Mullen was selected to serve as the Navy's 32nd Vice Chief of Naval Operations. During the first half of 2005, he served as Commander of NATO's Joint Force Command Naples and Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, leading the Alliance's peacekeeping operations in the Balkans and its important training mission in Iraq.

In July of 2005, Admiral Mike Mullen was sworn in as the 28th Chief of Naval Operations, serving as the top uniformed leader of the Navy and representative to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During his tenure, he oversaw the service's efforts to man, train, and equip the United States Navy to fulfill its traditional missions at sea. Admiral Mike Mullen also conceived and championed the Navy's contributions to the ground war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan and other regions to combat violent terrorism. Admiral Mike Mullen further led efforts to provide a framework and concrete plan to stabilize the Navy's shipbuilding program to support a three hundred-thirteen ship fleet to maintain the United States' maritime superiority in a dynamic and uncertain world.

On October 1st, 2007, the President of the United States and the United States Senate appointed Admiral Mike Mullen as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Since assuming duties as Chairman, he has overseen continuous joint military operations with our Nation's allies to eradicate terrorist networks throughout the world. Admiral Mike Mullen's overall leadership supported the incredible turnaround in security and stability in Iraq and has bolstered the efforts of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) alliance in Afghanistan. Additionally during his tenure, Admiral Mike Mullen oversaw military humanitarian assistance operations in relief of major international disasters to include the 2010 Haiti Earthquake and 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Although Admiral Mike Mullen's dedication to service has been honored by a wide array of leadership awards and decorations over the years, this consummate military professional's commitment to his Nation is driven by much more profound reasons. My wife Beverly and I have seen personally that he is a man who cares deeply for our men and women in uniform, their families, and the families of the fallen and missing. Admiral Mike Mullen, along with his wife Deborah, have passionately represented our men and women in uniform, particularly those who have returned from this

decade's wars as they and their families heal from wounds both seen and unseen. His attention to our most critically wounded has been a testament to his willingness to ensure our wounded Service Members and their families receive the best care and support the Nation has to offer. I have no doubt his commitment to these Americans, who have given so much, will indeed endure far beyond his days in uniform.

The United States Navy, the Department of Defense and the Nation will dearly miss one of its most respected and valued leaders as Admiral Mike Mullen leaves active duty and this Congressman and my wife Beverly will deeply miss his counsel on many important issues and most important his personal friendship. We will miss his humility, his selflessness, his candor and his integrity. When history looks back at this leader and his legacy it will be clear that his leadership produced the best military the world has ever known.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work closely with Admiral Mike Mullen over the last several years of his long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Admiral Mike Mullen for a lifetime of service to his country. For all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country; we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Deborah, and his two sons, John and Michael, all the best in his retirement.

JUSTICE FOR IRANIAN PEOPLE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, thousands of Iranian-Americans from 41 states across America attended a rally outside the Department of State on August 26, 2011, calling on the Secretary to remove the principal Iranian opposition movement, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) from the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO).

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which acts as Iran's Parliament-in-exile, addressed the rally via satellite from Paris. Excerpts of her remarks follow:

Honorable and brave Iranians, I salute your protest and gathering, which symbolizes an uprising for the freedom of the Iranian people and in defense of the persecuted and besieged Ashraf; an uprising against a discredited label against the Iranian Resistance. Today, your calls echo the calls for justice emanating from an enchained nation, which rejects the velayat-e faqih (absolute clerical rule) dictatorship. Ashraf is proud to have such admirable representatives and defenders like you; And the Iranian people are proud to have stored in your being the most prized possession required for the attainment of freedom and democracy.

Dear Compatriots, It has been more a year since the ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, which ordered the State Department to review the terrorist listing of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK). The Iranian people and the Iranian Resistance have paid the price for this unjustified delay with the blood of their most courageous children. Political prisoners in Iran, like Ali Saremi, were hanged by Khamenei's henchmen. And, the 36 heroes of freedom in Ashraf, who were martyred on the orders of the velayat-e faqih regime, were all part of this bloody price. The terror listing in the U.S. is openly used as a justification to legitimize such bloodletting, both by the cruel mullahs in Tehran as well as their proxy government in Iraq. Therefore, the Iranian people are asking the United States, ''Why are you not annulling the license to kill our children?''

The decision of the appeals court in Washington stated that the State Department violated due process rights during the listing process. And, 20 judgments by European courts against the terrorism charge leave absolutely no doubt that this label is completely discredited. Thousands of parliamentarians and human rights advocates in the Arab world and in Europe, joined by a large number of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, forming a great global voice in defense of the freedom-loving Iranian Resistance. This constitutes an exceptional consensus in the face of 14 years of injustices committed against the PMOI and the Iranian Resistance. Dozens of the most honorable former senior officials serving in the country's administrations over the last two decades have taken a clear stance in the course of their multiple international conferences in Washington, Brussels, Paris, Berlin, London and Rome, leaving absolutely no credibility for this listing. Hail to their sense of justice and clear-sightedness through which the great historical symbols of America like Jefferson and Lincoln are resurrected.

We have seen how the mullahs' regime and the insignificant factions directed by Tehran utilize cruelty and insolence to attack and avenge these dignified personalities. But, these officials have shown extraordinary courage by placing their credibility and political reputation in support of this Resistance. We recognize the United States in the image of these noble human beings and not those who have succumbed to religious fascism. They represent an America that recognizes democracy and human rights in Iran as the precondition for global peace and security and guarantor of the American people's genuine interests. This is the United States that is standing by the Iranian people. For the past 170 days, your courageous and resilient friends have staged a sit-in across from the State Department. They echo the Iranian nation's call for the upholding of justice for the protection of Ashraf and removal of the PMOI from the terror list night and day, both under the summer heat and the winter chill.

Letters from more than 800 religious leaders and 2,000 priests across the U.S. in support of this Resistance. Thirteen hearing sessions in the U.S. House and Senate to pursue the issue of protecting Ashraf and annulling the discredited terror label against the PMOI Passing of multiple resolutions in Congress, and especially the amendment passed by the House Foreign Affairs Committee last month about the imperative to prevent the displacement of Ashraf residents inside Iraq And thousands of political, parliamentary, media and social initiatives, all of which have inspired the admiration of everyone. The evil forces that have laid a siege on your sisters and brothers in Camp Ashraf seek to destroy and annihilate Ashraf and its freedom-seeking residents. But, you have spread the flames of Ashraf in your society and hoisted its flag. Hold onto this flag more powerfully, because this is the banner of freedom and democracy in Iran.

Clearly, the U.S. bears special responsibility for ensuring the protection of these residents on the basis of its agreements with every single one of the residents in Camp Ashraf. We urge the U.S. to listen to Congress and the resolution passed by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and abandon the idea of displacing Ashraf residents within Iraq. We call on the U.S. to support the European solution instead of this dangerous idea which will have no results other than a humanitarian catastrophe. Similarly, we want the United Nations to rise up to its irrevocable obligations in ensuring the protection of Ashraf . . .

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HOLIDAY ISLES ELKS LODGE 1912 IN MADEIRA BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding group of individuals that I have the privilege to represent in Madeira Beach, Florida, which has dedicated years of generous care and hospitality for our Nation's veterans. Over the years, in cooperation with the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital, the Holiday Isles Elks Lodge 1912 has proved that their commitment to our troops is unwavering.

Every day, members of Lodge 1912 can be found at the local Bay Pines Veterans Hospital demonstrating their commitment to those who have already sacrificed so much. For example, member Betty Ryan takes the initiative on a regular basis to find out what exactly it is our hospitalized veterans need. And within the lodge, Betty has set up a box for donations which she routinely presents to veterans at Bay Pines.

The Elks community also offers and supports many individual programs designed to help and enhance the lives of our veterans. One of these supported programs is the Wounded Warrior Project which, in 2009, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission made available $50,000 to launch the Elks/Wounded Warrior Project. Just as the Wounded Warrior Project assists injured veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Elks offers a program known as the Army of Hope which assists the families of those who have been called to duty during these very difficult times of conflict.

These constituents of mine provide an outstanding service to our veterans; however, this commitment does not end with Lodge 1912. There are 2000 lodges nationwide and you will find their members hard at work in each of the 172 VA Medical centers around the country living up to their pledge: ''So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.''

Mr. Speaker, Holiday Isles Elks Lodge 1912 not only shines in their display of compassion and patriotism, but also reminds us of the characteristics of great people that make up a great nation. Thank you to all the members for their excellent service in the past and for your continued assistance to the community and our veterans in the future.

HONORING THE SELFRELIANCE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union (SUAFCU) which will celebrate 60 years of service on September 21, 2011. This organization has helped countless Ukrainian families and businesses in my district and across Illinois live the American dream.

SUAFCU was founded in 1951 as a financial cooperative whose mission was to benefit local members of the Ukrainian American community. Open to anyone of Ukrainian descent or members of other Ukrainian organizations, SUAFCU stays very focused on its original mission. The democratic tenets to which the Union strictly adheres make it a unique institution that provides an example of what hard working communities can achieve.

During its first 15 years, SUAFCU was incredibly active, providing its members with over $4,156,000 in loans. Thanks to the responsible lending practices of this community, many Ukrainian doctors, dentists, and veterinarians were able to found successful practices. Dozens of other businesses opened thanks to SUAFCU, but just as important, 1200 families were able to purchase homes in the Chicago area. This community came together to exemplify the American dream through smart practices and a closely-knit community.

Around these businesses, the ''Ukrainian Village'' prospered into a network of interconnected community organizations including cultural and social clubs, and churches. SUAFCU works closely with churches and others to ensure the assimilation process is less difficult for Ukrainian immigrants—a population that brings diversity and new ideas to the area. SUAFCU continues to prosper and help families and businesses under current President and CEO Bohdan Watral and Chairman of the Board of Directors Michael Kos, two strong advocates for Ukrainian Americans.

Please join me in honoring the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, a group that has brought immeasurable benefit to Illinois by helping Ukrainians thrive and contribute to the community. I know SUAFCU will continue to help individuals realize their dreams and I wish them prosperity over their next 60 years.

HONORING JULIO ALVARADO

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Julio Alvarado, who passed away on September 13, 2011, just four days short of his 85th birthday.

Born in Puerto Rico in 1926, Julio Alvarado arrived in San Pedro in 1949 where he made his home and became a beloved member of the community. While in San Pedro, Julio worked on the docks at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach as member of ILWU Local 13.

Julio Alvarado was an immensely caring person with a large, generous heart and was always ready to help anyone in need. He will be missed dearly by all who knew him. His children and grandchildren will especially miss his baking and his homemade bread.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Julio's daughter, Daisy Ybarra, for almost 20 years. For nearly two years while I served on the Los Angeles City Council, Daisy was my Community Advocate in Watts, but Daisy had been following in her father's footsteps and serving her community long before then by teaching kids to say no to gangs through GAP, the Gang Alternatives Program. Lives were saved because of the work that she did and I know that her father was very proud of her.

Julio Alvarado was preceded in death by his loving wife Ana.

I extend my deepest condolences to his sons, Julio, Jr., and Robert; daughters Angela, Daisy, Miriam, and Maria Luisa; his brother and sister Victor Gotay and Carmen Martinez, both of Puerto Rico; and to his three grandchildren, three great-granddaughters as well as several nieces and nephews. Though Julio is no longer with us, his legacy lives on in the lives of the loved ones he has left behind and in the community he made his home.

CONGRATULATING OUR FRIEND AND ALLY, TAIWAN

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2011 we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the emergence of the Chinese people from the dynastic rule that has permeated their history.

Rising against the Qing rulers, Chinese Doctor Sun Yat-sen rose to free his people from totalitarian rule which in turn provided them the opportunity to produce the model Democracy that is Taiwan.

Taiwan today is one of the leading democracies of the world, an economic power and a leading force for peace in the Pacific.

Taiwan's present leader, Ma Ying-jeou is to be congratulated for his efforts and success in providing a climate for Peace and continuing the best traditions of the Chinese people.

Congratuations to the people of Taiwan on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DUWAMISH TRIBAL RECOGNITION ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Duwamish Tribal Recognition Act, legislation to grant federal recognition to the Duwamish Tribe of the Seattle, Washington area.

The Duwamish people were the first indigenous people of the Greater Seattle area and lived in the area for more than a thousand years before the first European-Americans arrived in 1851. In 1855, the Duwamish Tribe, represented by Chief Si'ahl (Seattle), signed the Treaty of Point Elliott, which guaranteed fishing rights and federal recognition to all Tribes represented by the Native signers. However, despite ratification by the U.S. Congress in 1859, the promises made by the United States in the treaty were never fulfilled.

Since then, it has been a struggle spanning more than 150 years for the Duwamish people to attain the recognition that was promised to them in the Treaty of Point Elliott. Most recently, in the waning hours of the Clinton Administration, the Tribe was granted federal recognition by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. However, the Bush Administration reversed this decision, questioning the administrative procedures utilized by the Clinton Administration.

Mr. Speaker, for far too long the Duwamish people have waited for federal recognition, which will provide those enrolled in the Tribe access to federal finances for tribal government, as well as cultural, education, health care, and housing programs. Now is the time to recognize the Duwamish people. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Truck Driver Appreciation Week. I want to commend America's 3.2 million professional truck drivers who serve our nation by expediting commerce and goods essential to our homes and businesses.

One out of every fifteen people across the country are employed in the trucking industry, making it one of the nation's largest employers. The trucking industry is responsible for nearly 68 percent of the total U.S. freight tonnage and over 80 percent of communities rely solely on it for their goods and commodities. This industry is fundamental to our economy.

America's truck drivers are dedicated to keeping our highways safe. They follow stringent safety regulations, attend frequent training programs and educate the motoring public to help keep our highways and interstates safe.

While regulation of transportation commerce and safety is necessary, we need to be careful we do not over-regulate and harm such a vital industry. We need to allow these dedicated and hard working professionals to perform their jobs with the support of our government and without unnecessary government interference.

This week I join my colleagues in extending a warm thank you to them and to their families for the sacrifices they make each and every day for this country.

Today, I honor these wonderful Americans for their dedication and service rendered to our nation's economy and for delivering everyday life's essentials safely and securely.

PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS—STANDING FOR THOSE WHO STOOD FOR US

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to be a member of the United States military is a gift, a sacrifice and it is an honor. Theodore Roosevelt said: "No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his well-being, to risk his body, to risk his life, in a great cause." Every day our warriors risk their lives, and today I would like to pay tribute to a special group of at home warriors who stand for those fallen heroes who stood for us. They are known as the Patriot Guard Riders.

The Patriot Guard Riders are a group of motorcyclists who pay tribute to those who have died serving our country. Their mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen soldiers; upholding President Roosevelt's belief that brave soldiers who gave the utmost sacrifice for their country deserve respect and reverence during their final tribute.

Each of the riders missions have two objectives, to show sincere respect for America's fallen heroes, their families, and their communities; and to shield the mourning family and their friends from interruptions caused by protesters. They have the patriotic understanding that each of America's fallen heroes deserves respect.

Decked out in leather, wearing shades and bandanas, waving Old Glory and riding 500 plus pounds of steel, the Patriot Guard Riders are a terrifying but inspiring looking bunch. They have nicknames like Bronco, Dark Horse, Puddles and Wild Bill. They are right thinking Americans with big hearts.

The Guard is activated each time the military reports the death of a soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan. This nationwide organization of volunteers is very efficient. State Captains send out e-mails to members in the city where the soldier will be buried, and everyone jumps into action. They ensure that streets along the funeral procession are lined with American flags. Each mission is accomplished through legal and non-violent means. If protestors are present and become loud, the Patriot Guard Riders form a flag line, turn their backs on protesters, and will even drown the sound of the protestors by singing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

One involved Patriot biker, Rich "Boomer" Ford, a former Navy SEAL who served in Vietnam, is a retired Deputy State Captain and Road Guard Captain for the Texas Patriot Guard Riders. He is the man in charge of the "missions." If you ask Boomer why he rides, he will tell you that he remembers the lack of respect received when returning home from Vietnam. He wants to make sure that doesn't happen to these brave men and women. Boomer feels that each "mission" recognizes and honors the hard work our soldiers are doing for us overseas. These men and women like Boomer, who volunteer their time to help guard our Nation's heroes should be forever remembered for their honor and dignity.

I commend the Patriot Guard Riders for riding for our soldiers whose lives were given in pursuit of a great cause, American freedom. I am proud to recognize these angels on bikes with hearts bigger than Texas. They show their respect for our troops, their families, and our community in an honorable way, one funeral at a time. They make a difference and represent all that is right and good in America.

And that's just the way it is.

REMEMBERING COLONEL DAVID A. McCRACKEN OF NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the achievements of Colonel David A. McCracken, a graduate of the Army ROTC program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a native of New Castle, Pennsylvania, who passed away on September 2, 2011 after a battle with brain cancer.

I, along with all Americans, am extremely grateful for his brave and honorable service in the United States Army during such an important period in our Nation's history.

Colonel McCracken's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with one silver and one bronze oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Bosnia), Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with an "M" device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, NATO Medal and Army Engineer Associations and the Bronze DeFleury Medal.

His career was celebrated and his bravery unflagging, even as he received treatment for cancer. His service is an example of courage, dedication, and the values that make western Pennsylvania and our country great.

Our prayers, gratitude, and condolences go to his family in New Castle: his parents Theo and Laura McCracken, as well as his wife of 15 years, Tammy, sons, PFC Tyler Hindley and Connor, and daughter Maitlin.

9/11 IMPACTS ON INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRENDS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present to my colleagues a succinct academic analysis written by Dr. Michael Czinkota of the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, and his fellow professors, Gary Knight and Gabriele Suder, regarding their analysis of the impact of 9/11 on the international business climate and the trends in globalizations. In light of the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, I commend to you their observations.

TERRORISM AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS—LOOKING BACK AND STRIVING FORWARD

(By Michael R. Czinkota, Gary Knight, and Gabriele Suder)

The airplanes of 9/11 forced countless multinational corporations (MNCs) to update their strategic planning. Our work with executives at more than 150 MNCs shows that ten years later, companies are still grappling with how best to manage the terrorist threat.

In the two decades before 2001, the rate at which firms launched international ventures was growing rapidly. After 9/11, foreign direct investment fell dramatically as firms withdrew to their home markets. The popularity of international-sounding company and brand names decreased appreciably as managers now emphasize domestic and local affiliations.

The tendency to reverse course on globalization has been accompanied by declining international education in the United States, as revealed by falling enrollments in foreign language and international business courses. In the past decade, managers shifted much of their focus from proactive exploration of international opportunities to a defensive posture emphasizing threats and vulnerable foreign operations.

In Europe, the radicalization of individuals and groups, motivated by ideology, religion or economic concerns, threatens local cooperation and social harmony. European business schools have benefited from tighter restrictions on international student enrollments in the U.S., but the focus of teaching has shifted from global to regional trade.

Another outcome of the terrorism threat has been a rise of public-private partnerships, in which governments and firms collaborate to counter them. For example, global police agencies now partner regularly with private firms to combat cyber crime and attacks on critical computer infrastructure. Governments and activist groups now use social media to organize campaigns fighting against threats ranging from dictators to disease. But nations also have begun to curtail social media when they are contrary to government interests.

The cost of protecting against terrorism is many billions, while terrorist spend millions or less on their actions. There are abundant opportunities for small groups to employ nonweapon technologies, such as aircraft, to cause massive harm. Though our capacity to protect key facilities has improved over time, the security focus on high-value assets encourages terrorists to redirect their violence at "soft targets" such as transportation systems and business facilities. Greater security at home means attacks will increasingly take aim on firms' foreign operations.

Companies have placed more emphasis on terrorism risk considerations when choosing how to enter foreign markets. In the last century, foreign direct investment (FDI) was the preferred approach. But terrorism has shifted the balance. Now many more firms favor entry through exporting, which permits broad and rapid coverage of world markets, reduces dependence on highly visible physical facilities, and offers much flexibility for making rapid adjustments. In terms of economies of scale and transaction costs, FDI is generally superior, but the risks of exporting are judged to be lower. Markets tend to punish failure more harshly than they reward success, which makes risk-minimizing strategies more effective.

Skillful management of global logistics and supply chains cuts the risk and cost of downtime. Firms seek closer relations with suppliers and clients in order to develop more trust and commitment. Some have increased "on-shoring" by bringing suppliers

back into the country when their remoteness constitutes risk.

Terrorism causes an organizational crisis whose ultimate effects may be unknown, and poses a significant threat to the performance of the firm. Corporate preparedness for the unexpected is a vital task. Innovative managers develop back-up resources, and plan for dislocations and sudden shocks with a flexible corporate response.

Terrorism is a public threat, and some managers believe government should bear the cost of protecting against it. Others argue that a public-private partnership is the most effective approach, with firms taking the lead. There is also the issue whether corporate headquarters or the locally exposed subsidiary should fund prevention and preparation expenditures. Regardless of who pays, everyone can agree on the need to guard against terrorism.

Every world region is vulnerable, and most attacks are directed at businesses and business-related infrastructure. Terrorism requires decision-making and behaviors that support vigilance and development of appropriate strategies. Managers who fail to prepare run the risk of weaker performance or even loss of the firm. While we can no longer choose the lowest cost option, ten years after 9/11 companies are more aware, less exposed, and less vulnerable to the risk of terrorism. But in the next ten years comes the really big task: What can and should we do collectively and individually to reduce the causes of terrorism.

CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of Constitution Day, as this past weekend we celebrated 224 years since this nation's founders first signed the hallowed document that governs our nation to this day.

The beauty of our Constitution is that it is a living document. When the Constitution was written, women were not permitted to own property, vote, or attend many institutions of higher learning. Today, women are earning doctorate degrees at higher rates than men, serving as CEOs of Fortune 500 Companies, and even as Cabinet Secretaries.

But even with this solemn document to guide and govern our nation, women today still earn less than their male counterparts, and minority women even less. Women are more likely to be living in poverty and without healthcare. Women still only make up 17 percent of the current Congress.

As we continue to build on women's rights in this country, we are standing on a firm foundation in the Fourteenth Amendment. As we celebrate Constitution Day, women especially must remember how far we've come—and how far we still have to go.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic Americans to the culture of the United States.

Today, Hispanics make up 16.3% of the total United States' population—that's nearly 50.5 million people.

Their buying power was $1 trillion in 2010, and is expected to reach $1.5 trillion by 2015.

Hispanic-owned business grew between 2002 and 2007 by 44%—and these businesses generated $345.2 billion in sales in 2007 alone.

Hispanics are involved with every aspect of our culture—from science, to sports, business, government, and the arts.

They will continue to contribute to our nation economically, culturally, and politically.

This is why it's vital to make the correct choices when it comes to immigration.

Here in Washington, we need a bipartisan effort to make comprehensive immigration reform a reality.

As Members of Congress, we must work for a stronger United States—a nation that recognizes diversity and embraces it.

HONORING CORPORAL MICHAEL JOSEPH DUTCHER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Michael Joseph Dutcher of Asheville, North Carolina for his valiant service in the United States Marine Corps. The sacrifices Corporal Michael Joseph Dutcher made will not be forgotten as he put his country above his own needs, serving to fight for freedom.

Born on November 21, 1988, Cpl. Dutcher grew up in Asheville, North Carolina. At Asheville High School, Cpl. Dutcher was involved in band, wrestling, and ROTC. Immediately after graduation, Cpl. Dutcher enrolled in the Marine Corps on June 18, 2007. Cpl. Dutcher served in Bravo Company. He served 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, including a tour of duty in Afghanistan. His personal service awards include the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Deployment with three Bronze Stars, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal and NATO Medal ISAF–Afghanistan.

Cpl. Dutcher was a Non-Commissioned Officer of Marines, regarded by his unit as a selfless leader who always put the well-being of his fellow Marines above his own. In Afghanistan, his unit served at the tip of the spear in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, the site of some of the fiercest fighting in all of Afghanistan. On September 15, 2011, he gave his life while leading his Marines from the front against enemy forces.

Mr. Speaker, Cpl. Dutcher embodied the most essential qualities of a United States Marine. He was selfless, dedicated, and brave. He is remembered as a man who had a tremendous impact not only on his fellow Marines, but also on his family, friends, and community. Through his exemplary service in Afghanistan, Cpl. Michael Joseph Dutcher has brought pride to Western North Carolina. It is truly my honor to commemorate him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Cpl. Michael Joseph Dutcher for the sacrifices he made for our country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is $14,711,870,126,618.47.

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 $4,073,444,380,324.67 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA ON THE AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN STUDY GROUP

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I have been writing President Obama and administration officials since August 2010 outlining my concerns about the progress of the war in Afghanistan and asking that an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group be established to engage outside experts to bring fresh eyes to U.S. strategy in South Asia.

It's now over a year later and the administration continues to balk at any suggestion for such a panel to be formed. Yet we continue to read headlines every week reporting about casualties among our brave troops and stepped up attacks by the Taliban, including assassinations of Afghan leaders.

I firmly believe that success in South Asia requires a complete reexamination of U.S. policy with both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Establishing the Af/Pak Stud Group will demonstrate that U.S. political leaders and government officials are willing to take whatever steps necessary to ensure we have the best strategy for long-term success in South Asia.

I will begin today to insert in the RECORD my correspondence with the administration on this matter. My letter of August 4, 2010, to the president follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 4, 2010.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
The President,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On September 14, 2001, following the catastrophic and deliberate terrorist attack on our country, I voted to go to war in Afghanistan. I stand by that decision and have the utmost confidence in General Petraeus's proven leadership. I also remain unequivocally committed to the success of our mission there and to the more than 100,000 American troops sacrificing toward that end. In fact, it is this

commitment which has led me to write to you. While I have been a consistent supporter of the war effort in both Afgahnistan and Iraq, I believe that with this support comes a responsibility. This was true during a Republican administration in the midst of the wars, and it remains true today.

In 2005, I returned from my third trip to Iraq where I saw firsthand the deteriorating security situation. I was deeply concerned that Congress was failing to exercise the necessary oversight of the war effort. Against this backdrop I authored the legislation that created the Iraq Study Group (ISG). The ISG was a 10-member bipartisan group of well-respected, nationally known figures who were brought together with the help of four reputable organizations—the U.S. Institute for Peace, the Center for the Study of the Presidency, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University—and charged with undertaking a comprehensive review of U.S. efforts there. This panel was intended to serve as ''fresh eyes on the target''—the target being success in Iraq.

While reticent at first, to their credit President Bush, State Secretary Rice and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld came to support the ISG, ably led by bipartisan co-chairs, former Secretary of State James Baker and former Congressman Lee Hamilton. Two members of your national security team, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and CIA Director Leon Panetta, saw the merit of the ISG and, in fact, served on the panel. Vice President Biden, too, then serving in the Senate, was supportive and saw it as a means to unite the Congress at a critical time. A number of the ISG's recommendations and ideas were adopted. Retired General Jack Keane, senior military adviser to the ISG, was a lead proponent of ''the surge,'' and the ISG referenced the possibility on page 73. Aside from the specific policy recommendations of the panel, the ISG helped force a moment of truth in our national conversation about the war effort.

I believe our nation is again facing such a moment in the Afghanistan war effort, and that a similar model is needed. In recent days I have spoken with a number of knowledgeable individuals including former senior diplomats, public policy experts and retired and active military. Many believe our Afghanistan policy is adrift, and all agreed that there is an urgent need for what I call an Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group (APG). We must examine our efforts in the region holistically, given Pakistan's strategic significance to our efforts in Afghanistan and the Taliban's presence in that country as well, especially in the border areas.

This likely will not come as a surprise to you as commander in chief. You are well acquainted with the sobering statistics of the past several weeks—notably that July surpassed June as the deadliest month for U.S. troops. There is a palpable shift in the nation's mood and in the halls of Congress. A July 2010 CBS news poll found that 62 percent of Americans say the war is going badly in Afghanistan, up from 49 percent in May. Further, last week, 102 Democrats voted against the war spending bill, which is 70 more than last year, and they were joined by 12 members of my own party. Senator Lindsay Graham, speaking last Sunday on CNN's ''State of the Union,'' candidly expressed concern about an ''unholy alliance'' emerging of anti-war Democrats and Republicans.

I have heard it said that Vietnam was not lost in Saigon; rather, it was lost in Washington. While the Vietnam and Afghanistan parallels are imperfect at best, the shadow of history looms large. Eroding political will has consequences—and in the case of Afghanistan, the stakes could not be higher. A year ago, speaking before the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention, you rightly said, ''Those who attacked America on 9/11 are plotting to do so again. If left unchecked, the Taliban insurgency will mean an even larger safe haven from which al Qaeda would plot to kill more Americans. So this is not only a war worth fighting . . . this is fundamental to the defense of our people.'' Indeed it is fundamental. We must soberly consider the implication of failure in Afghanistan. Those that we know for certain are chilling—namely an emboldened al Qaeda, a reconstituted Taliban with an open staging ground for future worldwide attacks, and a destabilized, nuclear-armed Pakistan.

Given these realities and wavering public and political support, I urge you to act immediately, through executive order, to convene an Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group modeled after the Iraq Study Group. The participation of nationally known and respected individuals is of paramount importance. Among the names that surfaced in my discussions with others, all of whom more than meet the criteria described above, are ISO co-chairs Baker and Hamilton; former Senators Chuck Robb, Bob Kerrey and Sam Nunn; former Congressman Duncan Hunter; former U.S. ambassador Ryan Crocker, former Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger, and General Keane. These names are simply suggestions among a cadre of capable men and women, as evidenced by the makeup of the ISG, who would be more than up to the task.

I firmly believe that an Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group could reinvigorate national confidence in how America can be successful and move toward a shared mission in Afghanistan. This is a crucial task. On the Sunday morning news shows this past weekend, it was unsettling to hear conflicting statements from within the leadership of the administration that revealed a lack of clarity about the endgame in Afghanistan. How much more so is this true for the rest of the country? An APSG is necessary for precisely that reason. We are nine years into our nation's longest running war and the American people and their elected representatives do not have a clear sense of what we are aiming to achieve, why it is necessary and how far we are from attaining that goal. Further, an APSG could strengthen many of our NATO allies in Afghanistan who are also facing dwindling public support, as evidenced by the recent Dutch troop withdrawal, and would give them a tangible vision to which to commit.

Just as was true at the time of the Iraq Study Group, I believe that Americans of all political viewpoints, liberals and conservatives alike, and varied opinions on the war will embrace this ''fresh eyes'' approach. Like the previous administration's support of the Iraq Study Group, which involved taking the group's members to Iraq and providing high-level access to policy and decision makers, I urge you to embrace an Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group. It is always in our national interest to openly assess the challenges before us and to chart a clear course to success.

As you know, the full Congress comes back in session in mid-September—days after Americans around the country will once again pause and remember that horrific morning nine years ago when passenger airlines became weapons, when the skyline of one of America's greatest cities was forever changed, when a symbol of America's military might was left with a gaping hole. The experts with whom I have spoken in recent days believe that time is of the essence in moving forward with a study panel, and waiting for Congress to reconvene is too long to wait. As such, I am hopeful you will use an executive order and the power of the bully pulpit to convene this group in short order, and explain to the American people why it is both necessary and timely. Should you choose not to take this path, respectfully, I intend to offer an amendment by whatever vehicle necessary to mandate the group's creation at the earliest possible opportunity.

The ISO's report opened with a letter from the co-chairs that read, ''There is no magic formula to solve the problems of Iraq. However, there are actions that can be taken to improve the situation and protect American interests.'' The same can be said of Afghanistan.

I understand that you are a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln. He too, governed during a time of war, albeit a war that pitted brother against brother, and father against son. In the midst of that epic struggle, he relied on a cabinet with strong, oftentimes opposing viewpoints. Historians assert this served to develop his thinking on complex matters. Similarly, while total agreement may not emerge from a study group for Afghanistan and Pakistan, I believe that vigorous, thoughtful and principled debate and discussion among some of our nation's greatest minds on these matters will only serve the national interest. The biblical admonition that iron sharpens iron rings true.

Best wishes.

P.S. We as a nation must be successful in Afghanistan. We owe this to our men and women in the military serving in harm's way and to the American people.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, the Republic of China (Taiwan), will celebrate its 100th anniversary as a nation.

One hundred years ago, on October 10, 1911, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and his Revolutionary Alliance ended China's rule of Taiwan.

Since then, Taiwan has proven itself a beacon of democracy and freedom for the global community.

Taiwanese leaders have consistently and peacefully transferred power amongst each other, and its residents act in ways that embody democratic philosophies and principles.

I am proud to call Taiwan a friend and ally, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing the Taiwanese people and their century of accomplishments.

As a friend, I happily extend my congratulations to Taiwan on its upcoming 100th anniversary.

COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF JUDGE LACY THORNBURG TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Lacy Thornburg for more than fifty-five years of public service to our country and Western North Carolina.

Judge Lacy Thornburg was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina in 1929. After

graduating from Huntersville High School, he served in the U.S. Army, graduated from Mars Hill College and received his law degree from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Following his law school graduation in 1954, Judge Thornburg and his wife moved to Jackson County, North Carolina where he began a law practice with former Congressman David Hall. He became active in church, civic, and political affairs, holding offices in the Presbyterian Church, the Jaycees, the Lions, and the Young Democrats.

During Judge Thornburg's thirteen years as a practicing trial lawyer, he was elected to three terms in the North Carolina General Assembly. He was appointed as a Superior Court Judge in 1966 and served on the bench for sixteen years. Through his hard work and respect for others, Judge Thornburg was elected Attorney General of North Carolina in November of 1984 and served two four-year terms. As Attorney General, he personally argued three cases before the United States Supreme Court: Riley v. National Federal of the Blind in 1988, N.C. Department of Transportation v. Crest St. Council in 1986, and Thornburg v. Gingles in 1986.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton nominated Judge Thornburg as U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina and he was confirmed by the 104th Congress on January 11, 1995. He served with distinction on the federal bench until his retirement in 2009.

It is an honor to represent selfless, hard-working public servants like Judge Lacy Thornburg. His devotion to public service is a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Judge Lacy Thornburg for his lasting impact on Western North Carolina.

IN CELEBRATION OF FLORENCE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Florence Congregational Church located in Florence, Massachusetts. It was originally a community church named "The Church of Christ In Florence." Its founders visualized it as the center of the abolitionist movement in the village, which was already an active station on the underground railroad, with its charter members being sympathetic to the movement. Its first settled pastor, Horace Carter Hovey, had been driven from his pulpit in Indiana because of his ardent opposition to slavery. Article nine of the church's bylaws, adopted on June 3, 1862, declared "our decided protest against the sin of slavery."

The church was dedicated on October 9, 1861, in the sixth month of the Civil War. The Reverend Hovey twice took a leave of absence to volunteer with the United States Christian Commission, serving troops on battlefields in Virginia. Meanwhile, members of the infant church sewed clothing for the soldiers and sent them "comfort bags" and food to supplement army rations.

During the 150 years that followed, fifteen successive pastors have served this faith community in Florence. The original twenty-six members increased to a peak of over 900 in the 1960s; subsequently membership settled at its current level of about 200.

The church has continued to function as a center of community life. Today it shares its facilities with the Cloverdale Cooperative Nursery School and Beit Ahavah, a reformed Jewish congregation. It hosts an AA chapter, regular public suppers, a Boy Scout troop, and a summer vacation bible school that draws children from the surrounding area. The present pastor, the Reverend Irven A. Gammon, is deeply committed to his work with the Cancer Connection and to the community.

SUPPORT OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China, also known as Taiwan, which will occur on October 10, 2011.

On October 10, 1911, revolutionaries led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen launched an uprising in Taiwan to overturn dynastic rule that prevailed in China for over two thousand years. The Provisional Government of the Republic of China was established, declaring the Republic of China (ROC) an independent and sovereign state and the first republic in Asia. Dr. Sun Yat-sen served as their first president. October 10th is now celebrated annually as ROC's national day, also known as "Double Ten Day."

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China, we remember and celebrate the struggles the Republic of China faced in order to become a democratic republic state. We also acknowledge Dr. Sun Yat-sen's dedication to the principles of nationalism, democracy and the people's livelihood. Since its founding nearly a century ago, the Republic of China has undergone tremendous transformations and has matured into a free-market, multi-party democracy that plays key roles in the global economy and in maintaining regional peace and stability.

As a proud member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I have had the privilege to travel to Taiwan this past May as part of a bipartisan delegation. I had the pleasure of meeting President Ma Ying-jeou and other government officials. I was strongly encouraged by their commitment to maintaining strong ties with the United States.

As we celebrate Taiwan's progress and development during the past century, we must also applaud their commitment to the ideals of freedom and democracy. I would like to congratulate the people of Taiwan for continuing in the traditions of Sun Yat-sen and maintaining the vibrant democracy that is a model for the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of China on the 100th anniversary of its founding.

RECOGNIZING JOHN D. WAGNER ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL LABOR COUNCIL, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR—CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an individual who has tirelessly advocated on behalf of working families in my Congressional District.

John D. Wagner is a tenacious leader and has been a voice for workers in a career that spans several decades. As Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Tri-County Regional Labor Council, John has worked to improve the lives of workers and promote the beliefs of organized labor so that working class families can have a fair shake. A member in good standing with the United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union #219, John served as the Business Manager and administered the business operations and always worked towards for best interests of its membership.

John has never ceased in his efforts to address the issues and reality of working Americans. He is a political force who does not waver in his belief that each and every American deserves decent, affordable health care and a secure retirement after a lifetime of hard work. His voice and actions have inspired many, and we are grateful for his willingness to stand up for good wages and benefits for the middle class.

Though he is retiring from the Tri-County Regional Labor Council, John will continue his service on the Barberton City Council, where he is highly regarded for his responsiveness to the concerns of the residents in Ward Three. I commend John on his service and I look forward to working with him to improve the quality of life for working families across Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedicated service of Mr. John D. Wagner as he retires from the Tri-County Regional Labor Council, American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations.

HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE FRELINGHUYSEN ARBORETUM

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, located in Morris County, New Jersey, as they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Originaly a working farm and personal summer house, bequeathed to the citizens of Morris County, the property is now the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, dedicated in 1971.

In 1972, The Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum was founded in an effort to support the projects of the arboretum. With the help of funding provided by the Friends, through events like their annual plant sale, the Arboretum is able to provide educational and interactive programs to people of all ages. One

such program is the Branching Out Program. This initiative gives youth in the community a chance to roll up their sleeves and work a garden, learning about plants from the garden to the table. Due to the tireless dedication of the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, programs like these enable community members to explore the natural beauty that lies in their own backyard.

Under the guidance of the Morris County Park Commission, its mission is to support and/or sponsor projects and educational programs that will provide opportunities to the public to expand their knowledge and enjoyment of horticulture and the natural world.

The Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum is made up a dedicated group of men and women with a passion for horticultural and volunteerism. Though the Frelinghuysen Arboretum is their primary focus, the Friends also provide support to two other facilities within the Morris County Park Commission: Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center and the Willowwood Arboretum.

It is with many great thanks to the Friends, that Morris County is able to offer such an invaluable resource to its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on their Fortieth Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 714 on H.R. 2646. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE ON THEIR 25TH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL AT PENN'S LANDING

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Caribbean Festival Committee (CFC) on the occasion of their 25th Annual Caribbean Festival at Penn's Landing.

Since the Festival's inception, the CFC has focused on educating the Philadelphia region on the beauty and culture of the Caribbean and creating greater awareness of the significant contributions people of the Caribbean have made.

In addition to the cultural outreach and education the CFC and the Caribbean Festival provide, the CFC is dedicated to bettering their community. Proceeds obtained from annual events are used for a variety of charitable outlets. The CFC has used these proceeds to aid to hurricane victims and bereavement support in the Caribbean/American Community. Also, the CFC has awarded scholarships to Caribbean and Caribbean/American students attending two or four year colleges. To date, over 125 scholarships have been awarded to deserving students.

For 25 years, the Caribbean Festival Committee has been dedicated to educating the Philadelphia region on Caribbean culture, and providing outreach to the area's Caribbean/American community. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking the Caribbean Festival Committee for all they have done to improve and enrich the lives of many people in Philadelphia and beyond.

CONGRATULATING SABIC INNOVATIVE PLASTICS MOUNT VERNON FACILITY FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL POLLUTION PREVENTION ROUNDTABLE'S MVP2 PROJECT AWARD

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the SABIC Innovative Plastics facility in Mount Vernon, Indiana as recipient of the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable's MVP2 Project Award. SABIC Innovative Plastics is one of the largest producers of thermoplastics, glycols, methanol and fertilizers and this award is testament to its facilities dedication to pollution prevention.

The project garnering this award recovered and commercialized sodium nitrate. This initiative reduced water use by 19 million gallons and carbon dioxide generation by 10 million pounds for a combined savings of $4.45 million annually.

I am proud to have the global headquarters of SABIC in our district and their commitment to environmental sustainability should be commended. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mt. Vernon SABIC Innovative Plastics facility for receipt of the MVP2 Project Award.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF EASTERN OREGON AND HONOR FLIGHT OF PORTLAND, OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 47 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Friday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon and the newly created Honor Flight of Portland, Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to the Nation's Capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are: Elmer Beickel, U.S. Navy; Hayes Bickford, U.S. Navy; John Cleveland, U.S. Navy; Charles Decker, U.S. Navy; Leon Devereaux, Jr., U.S. Navy; Melvin Elder, U.S. Navy; Robert Ervin, U.S. Navy; Roice Fulleton, U.S. Navy; Robert Heisey, U.S. Navy; Dale Herbert, U.S. Navy; James Ogle, U.S. Navy; Edward Rose, Jr., U.S. Navy; Willard Rudd, U.S. Navy; Cameron Seitz, U.S. Navy; Russell Williams, U.S. Navy; Glen Winkler, U.S. Navy; Peter McNab, U.S. Navy; Henry Campuzano, U.S. Army; Vyvyan Clift, U.S. Army; James Dorgan, U.S. Army; Neil Farnham, U.S. Army; Howard Heimbuch, U.S. Army; James Howard, U.S. Army; Charles Keim, U.S. Army; Gerald Mattox, U.S. Army; William McCluhan, U.S. Army; Elliott Preble, U.S. Army; Erwin Regan, U.S. Army; James Sehorn, U.S. Army; Darrell Thompson, U.S. Army; Donald Thompson, U.S. Army; Clayton Vincent, U.S. Army; Patsy Seaman, U.S. Women's Army Corps; Bernard Anderson, U.S. Army Air Forces; Lee Berry, Jr., U.S. Army Air Forces; T. Carl Juhl, U.S. Army Air Forces; Jack Lewis, U.S. Army Air Forces; Robert Marble, U.S. Army Air Forces; Frank Ramirez, U.S. Army Air Forces; Walter Seaman, U.S. Army Air Forces; Gilbert Sharp, U.S. Army Air Forces; Dewey Thomas, U.S. Army Air Forces; Delbert Stafford, U.S. Army Air Forces; Donald Foelker, U.S. Marine Corps; Charles Porter, Jr., U.S. Coast Guard; Wayne Carlson, U.S. Merchant Marine; Paul Kirk, U.S. Merchant Marine.

These 47 heroes join more than 63,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, mariners and one Marine who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today. I will be hosting a special forum on Capitol Hill on Friday for these highly distinguished Americans, and I'm very eager to thank them all in person.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon and Portland, Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize Dick Tobiason, a U.S. Army veteran, and the Bend Heroes Foundation whose tireless work will result in over 100 WWII veterans from Oregon visiting the memorials and U.S. Capitol.

HONORING CAPTAIN B.G. ''SHAKEY'' HOLDER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor the service of an outstanding public servant in the 24th Congressional District of Texas. Firefighter Captain B.G. "Shakey" Holder is a hardworking, family-oriented individual who has served the Irving area selflessly throughout his personal and professional life. Captain Holder is retiring after 56 years of public service with the city of Irving.

Captain Holder has been married to his wife, Virginia "Ginger" Holder, for 19 years. They have a wonderful family of five children, seven grandchildren, and two great- grandchildren. His daughter, Cindy Jeffery, describes him as a man that "just gives to all."

"Shakey" joined the Irving Fire Department on December 1, 1955. Since then, he has become a well-respected officer who has mentored many young firefighters. Over the last 30 years, he has been assigned to two

important positions: working at Irving Fire Station 2 and serving as captain of Fire Station 1.

A strict routine of great health practices allowed Captain Holder to perform his tasks at the highest possible level of skill, which helped him as the lead man for his shift's Swift Water Rescue Team. His commitment to conditioning, training, firefighting, and enjoying life has been a leading example to all the members of the Irving Fire Department.

In 2005, Captain Holder was honored with a Texas State Proclamation and the city of Irving declared December 1st ''Shakey Holder Day'' in recognition of his outstanding service. In 2006, Captain Holder received The ''Shakey'' Gene Holder Lifetime Achievement Award, named after him for his lifetime dedication to the Irving Fire Department as a frontline firefighter. In 2010, he received the Fire Chief Award, and in the spring of 2011, the captain was recognized at the Texas State Capital for his 55 years of service.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Holder for his years of public service to the city of Irving.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BENJAMIN QUAYLE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, September 20, 2011, I missed rollcall votes numbered 712, 713, and 714. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on H.R. 2944, the United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2011, ''aye'' on H.R. 2189, the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2011 and ''aye'' on H.R. 2646, to authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects and leases, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and to modify certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ON THE REPEAL OF ''DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL''

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for the repeal of ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell.''

Today, we are one step closer to our nation's promise of liberty and justice for all people. The repeal of this misguided policy has ensured that our country's laws are applied equally and that gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members will no longer have to lie about who they are in order to serve their country. It will also enhance our national security.

As a member of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, I believe that one of my most important jobs is to ensure that the U.S. armed forces remain the best equipped, best prepared, and most powerful in the world. By sending home more than 13,500 motivated and qualified patriotic service members since 1994, who were willing and fit to serve this country, ''Don't Ask Don't Tell'' has without a doubt weakened our military. I was privileged to have had the opportunity to vote in favor of its repeal.

Today, all those in our society who are ready, able, and willing to serve in the U.S. military will be guaranteed their right to do so. The U.S. Constitution, specifically the 14th Amendment, requires the government to apply our laws equally. Now, only negative conduct, not one's sexual orientation, will be grounds for dismissal from our nation's military. Investing many millions of dollars to train these individuals and then dismissing them, in the absence of bad conduct, has wasted many millions of precious taxpayer dollars and compromised our national security.

As we celebrate this major milestone, many formerly discharged service members will reenter the armed services to serve alongside their friends and military family. We must ensure that the U.S. military treats all of our service members equally. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals must have access to the same rights as their hererosexual peers. Anything less is unacceptable and utterly un-American.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family, I was absent for legislative business on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 712–714. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: Rollcall 712–H.R. 2944, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, ''yes''; rollcall 713–H.R. 2189, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, ''yes''; rollcall 714–H.R. 2646, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, ''yes.''

CELEBRATING THE RELOCATION OF METROCREST SOCIAL SERVICES RESALE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate the relocation of the Metrocrest Social Services Resale facility. From its humble beginnings in 1971, this organization has exemplified charity and service throughout its rich history in the Metrocrest community.

Metrocrest Social Services opened its doors in Farmers Branch as the TRUTH House, serving underprivileged teens. By 1984, the nonprofit organization changed its name to Metrocrest Social Services and expanded its operations, volunteer base, and geographic areas served. Today, Metrocrest Social Services has established itself as a vital part of the Metrocrest community, providing emergency assistance and beneficial programs to move families toward self-sufficiency. Metrocrest Social Services serves the residents of Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Addison, Coppell and parts of Dallas. During 2010, the organization assisted 12,052 individuals with one or more services.

In 1989, the first Metrocrest Thrift Store opened in the Old Carrollton Square to help people receive clothing, household goods, and support. In 2002, the Thrift Store relocated to Beltline Road and Josey Lane. The new 8,238 square foot Metrocrest Resale facility, located at Midway Road and Trinity Mills Road, will continue to support day-to-day operations of Metrocrest Social Services and its mission to prevent homelessness in the Metrocrest community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Metrocrest Social Services as they relocate their Resale facility. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Metrocrest Social Services for its faithful service to our community.

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION'S BREAST CANCER DEADLINE 2020

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I have pledged my strong support for the goals of the National Breast Cancer Coalition's, NBCC, newly launched initiative, Breast Cancer Deadline 2020, and I encourage all of my colleagues—on both sides of the aisle—to join me. This initiative represents an historic commitment to dedicating the resources, expertise, and strategic planning we need to end breast cancer, once and for all. Breast cancer has affected too many of my constituents, family members, and friends to count, and caused far too much heartache. We can no longer tolerate stagnant rates of incidence and mortality. We must generate the will, and the investment we need, to eliminate breast cancer within the next decade.

The National Breast Cancer Coalition assures us that this goal is within reach, but it will require strategy and wisdom to attain. That is why NBCC has developed a multi-faceted strategy that has the potential to deliver the results we have been waiting for. The Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 plan includes a strong focus on science and research, with an emphasis on metastasis and primary prevention. The plan also includes a role for government; key players will convene to identify the most effective role for government to play in supporting research and health care. NBCC will release annual progress reports on the state of its work, and set forth guidance for the coming year. Alongside these strategic efforts, NBCC will engage in a large-scale effort to change the conversation surrounding breast cancer and engage the public to build momentum for the campaign.

NBCC's Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 campaign holds the promise of a new and improved approach to ending breast cancer. This is not an easy task, but with this kind of renewed energy and commitment, I have faith that we can get the job done. I know that the National Breast Cancer Coalition will wage a smart, well-organized fight in the next few years. I look forward to doing whatever I can to lend my voice and support for this campaign.

THE OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS RESOLUTION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this important bipartisan resolution that will help to raise awareness of the warning signs for ovarian cancer. This is an important vote that, put simply, will save lives of women across the country.

While we have made considerable progress in recent years in the war against cancer, thanks to the hard work of biomedical researchers at NIH and elsewhere, ovarian cancer has been a stubborn enemy. It remains the fifth most common cancer among women, and one I myself suffered from 25 years ago. It causes more deaths than any other female reproductive cancer. More than 15,000 of our friends and family are expected to perish from it this year.

Perhaps the saddest thing about these grim numbers is that some of these deaths are readily preventable. We know that women who catch their ovarian cancer at an earlier stage are over three times more likely to survive the disease than those who do not. Sadly, over 60% of the women diagnosed with ovarian cancer between 1999 and 2006 fell into this latter category.

That's why it is so important that we pass this resolution, and continue to help raise awareness about ovarian cancer. Of course, there are other steps we should also take. We need to re-fund Johanna's Law this year, which, despite strong bipartisan support, was zeroed out in the 2011 budget. And we need to continue to support the congressional-directed medical research program for ovarian cancer research at the Department of Defense, which was cut by 20% in the House's 2012 Defense Appropriations Bill.

But today, we can do our part by standing up against ovarian cancer, and passing this resolution. Cancer is indiscriminate. It does not care about your age, your family, your sex, your race, your religion, or your political party. It reminds us that we are all human and vulnerable. And that we must all come together—man and woman, young and old, Democrat and Republican—to fight it on every front.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and to help put an end to deaths from ovarian cancer.

CONCERNS REGARDING ''EXTRAVAGANT AND WASTEFUL'' SPENDING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter that I sent to Attorney General Holder on the report by the Office of Inspector General on the ''extravagant and wasteful'' spending on conference planning and refreshments.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2011.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,
Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: I was deeply concerned to read the Audit of Department of Justice Conference Planning and Food and Beverage Costs, which was released today by the Office of the Inspector General. This report details the Acting Inspector General's finding that DOJ spent more than $120 million on 1,832 conferences over two years, including ''extravagant and wasteful'' spending on food and beverages.

In one egregious example that occurred during your tenure as Attorney General, the Department spent $16 on each of 250 muffins served at an Executive Office for Immigration Review conference. In another case, the audit found that neither the Office of Justice Programs nor the Office on Violence Against Women required event planners to track and report salary and benefit costs on contracts totaling more than half a million dollars.

As Chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee that funds the Justice Department, I am troubled about the financial mismanagement that has taken place at the Department during the same period in which this country has weathered a severe recession and a tenuous economic recovery. It is clear that while American taxpayers were tightening their belts and making difficult financial decisions, the Department was splurging on wasteful snacks and drinks as well as unnecessary event planning ''consultants.''

Over the last year, the House Appropriations Committee has had to make difficult choices about deep spending reductions to reflect the austere budget environment. Appropriations for the Department were reduced by 2.8% overall in fiscal year 2011, and are reduced by another 3.4% in the House-reported bill for fiscal year 2012, a total reduction of more than $1.7 billion over two years.

Clearly there is still more work to be done to address wasteful spending at the Department. I expect you and other Department officials to immediately address the OIG's recommendations, and renew efforts to root out and eliminate wasteful spending practices such as those detailed in this report.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESTORING PROTECTION TO VICTIMS OF PERSECUTION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, to reintroduce the Restoring Protection to Victims of Persecution Act, a bill that would end the practice of barring asylum claims by those who have been in our country for more than a year.

In 1996, this one-year bar to asylum was enacted as a way to prevent fraudulent claimants from being granted asylum. Sixteen years later, there is no evidence to show that deadlines of this nature are effective in preventing fraud. Rather, the implementation of this law has resulted in the return of refugees to countries where they face persecution because of their gender, religion, nationality, or political involvement.

Although the law includes exceptions to excuse those who are determined to have valid reasons for applying for asylum after one year, adjudicators routinely deny applicants who meet these exceptions. People who are attempting to care for their children, hide from their abusers, cope with past trauma, and deal with the challenges of surviving in a new country are repeatedly and arbitrarily denied asylum status because of missing the one-year deadline.

Once denied, an applicant has only two other possibilities for safety: to petition for withholding of removal or to seek protection under the Convention Against Torture. Both these forms of relief demand an applicant surmount a much higher standard of proof than asylum and do not allow reunification with family members or provide them permanency.

Everyone in Congress can agree that our immigration system is overwhelmed with a massive backlog of cases and in desperate need of reform. The one-year deadline only adds to this amassment of immigration cases and leads to government waste. More importantly, this law is hurting the very people we ought to be helping. This is a human rights issue that must be addressed as quickly as possible, and I implore my colleagues to support this desperately needed legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MADISON AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Madison Area Technical College and to honor the education and enrichment this institution brings to the people of Wisconsin.

Madison College was founded in 1912 and quickly gained the reputation of a prestigious technical and community college. The technical school offers associate degrees, professional certificates, and specialized vocational training that reaches far beyond the walls of its main campus in Madison. The ability to receive specific training in 140 pertinent and growing career fields from a technical college is essential to the success of our community, especially in the tough economic times we find ourselves in today.

Madison College's vision is to transform lives, one at a time. This vision holds true from the Madison campuses all the way to each of the regional campuses in Fort Atkinson, Portage, Reedsburg, and Watertown. The skills students gain while attending the institution provide them with the tools to be successful in their future endeavors. The class size of only 20 students allows students and dedicated instructors to form a close bond, enhancing the educational experience.

The mission of the institution is to provide ''accessible, high-quality learning experiences that serve the community.'' Madison College's affordable tuition, financial aid, and scholarship opportunities ensure students from all

backgrounds can receive the education they deserve. Further, the Transfer U program allows students to gain the first two years of general education requirements and continue on for a bachelor's degree at another college or university, including the University of Wisconsin–Madison. This program saves the student an average of $11,000 in tuition each year. The technical college is also recognized as a state leader in delivering specialized training for future employees and nearly 90 percent of graduates find employment within 6 months of matriculation.

Not only does Madison College deliver a high-quality education to its students, but it also provides a fun and well-rounded college atmosphere. There are many student activities, campus events, and athletics that students can participate in to enrich their experience. Through its educational and community programs, Madison College serves approximately 42,000 people each year.

Madison College has effectively promoted its values of excellence, respect, and integrity over the past 100 years and will undoubtedly continue to do so in the future. I proudly join those across South Central Wisconsin, the entire state of Wisconsin, and this great Nation in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Madison Area Technical College and in thanking the many instructors, administrators, and students that make this institution such an outstanding place.

HONORING THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION STUDIES AT UC DAVIS OF DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS) at the University of California, Davis. ITS-Davis is the world's leading university research center on sustainable transportation. Through research, education, outreach, and the use of advanced models and analytical techniques, the Institute develops business and public-policy strategies for a healthy transportation future.

When ITS-Davis was established in 1991, alternative fuels and vehicles were nowhere near commercial reality. California's Zero Emission Vehicle mandate had just been adopted. Hybrid cars were the stuff of dreams.

Founding director Dr. Daniel Sperling, a UC Davis engineering professor, wanted to build an academic institute where several academic worlds—engineering, social science and public policy—would merge; where modelers and lab technicians shared ideas with consumer-behavior and marketing experts; and where academia engaged with industry and government to craft creative real-world solutions to help transport people and goods to make the world a better place.

Today, the Institute is the world's leading university center on sustainable transportation. It has more than 60 affiliated faculty and researchers, 125 graduate students, and $12 million in annual research funding. ITS-Davis has redefined transportation research with its unique multidisciplinary approach encompassing transportation technology, fuels, basic science, human behavior and public policy.

At the core of ITS-Davis' success are its strong partnerships with the automobile and energy industries; governments here and abroad; and the environmental community. Together they integrate research with university and public education, for the benefit of all of us.

The Institute has been an innovative and inspirational leader in helping California and the nation envision, develop and implement pioneering public activities that unite transportation stakeholders in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Those include: California's Assembly Bill 1493, which required rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light-duty trucks (2002); the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB32), which set goals to cut emissions statewide to 1990 levels by 2020; the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (2007); the Sustainable Communities Planning Act (SB 375), intended to reduce the vehicle miles an average family travels (2008); the Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle Research Roadmap (2011); and the U.S. Low Carbon Fuel Standard, which is now nearing completion.

Throughout, the Institute has been an essential partner to our federal agencies, working on cleaner systems, fuels and vehicles with scientists and policy planners at the U.S. Departments of Transportation, Energy and Agriculture, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

We also benefit from the Institute's work as forum leader and collaboration builder. Earlier this month, ITS-Davis hosted the 13th biennial Asilomar Conference for the U.S. Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. This is the highest-caliber international conference dedicated to transportation-sector energy issues. The Asilomar meeting exemplifies how the Institute's inclusive approach creates the basis for constructive long-term dialogue.

Our country's transportation future shows great promise, in part because of what ITS-Davis has accomplished over the past 20 years. After 100 years of reliance on the internal combustion engine, today we see hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles everywhere, with plug-in electric vehicles coming up fast. On the horizon are vehicles powered by biofuels, electric batteries and hydrogen; intelligently planned cities where walking replaces driving; and transit networks that let us travel between communities quickly and cleanly.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time for us to congratulate and thank the faculty, students, staff and supporters of the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Davis, who have done so much to ensure that our transportation options are sustainable and secure. We wish them continued success in their second 20 years.

RECOGNITION OF DR. CYNTHIA D. STARR

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to recognize Dr. Cynthia D. Starr and her contributions to the medical field and the New Jersey community. On October 29, 2011, Dr. Starr will be honored by Warren Hospital at their 30th annual Foundation Gala for her forty years of dedicated service to her community in the field of hematology and oncology.

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, Dr. Starr graduated from the Chicago School of Medicine prior to an internship, residency, and fellowship at Montefiore Hospital in Bronx, New York where she mastered internal medicine, hematology, and oncology. Dr. Starr then continued her career in private practice and as an active member on the Warren Hospital staff in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, where she has specialized in hematology and oncology for the past four decades. Additionally, Dr. Starr is a consulting staff member to Easton Hospital in Easton, Pennsylvania and a founding member of the Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice.

During her time at Warren Hospital, Dr. Starr has served as Chairperson of the Warren Hospital Tumor Board and Chairperson of the Warren Hospital Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. She continues to serve as Chairperson of the Warren Hospital Cancer Committee and as a member of the Warren Hospital Transfusion Committee. Her recognition on October 29th will be the latest of several honors Dr. Starr has been bestowed throughout her career. She has been elected President of Warren Hospital Medical Staff, elected by colleagues and patients as Warren County Home Care Physician of the Year, and she is a recipient of the First Clinical Instructor of the Year Award for the Warren Hospital Residency Program. In 2001, Warren Hospital opened its new Cynthia D. Starr Breast Care Center in honor of her service to the hospital's field of oncology.

It is with the highest esteem that I congratulate Dr. Cynthia Starr on her upcoming honor, as well as her accomplished career. Dr. Starr is a prime example of how one individual's dedication and service can positively impact an entire community.

CONCERNS REGARDING THE COLLAPSE OF FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter that I sent to Attorney General Holder on the closure of additional Federal Prison Industries factories and warn of the gradual collapse of this important work program for prison inmates. I urge the attorney general to take immediate action to bolster the program.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2011.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,
Attorney General, Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: As you know, on September 13, 2011, the Federal Bureau of Prisons announced the closure of UNICOR operations at eleven institutions and the reduction of personnel at two other institutions. These actions are expected to result in the elimination of 74 staff positions and 325 inmate jobs. Unfortunately, this is a result of the UNICOR Board of Directors'

projection that the corporation would suffer losses of $23 million in FY 2012 unless changes were made.

These drastic reductions lead me to believe that you are presiding over the collapse of Federal Prison Industries (FPI). While I have worked to include language in the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill to bolster FPI, it takes more than Congressional leadership to ensure that this institution will weather the challenging economic climate. What is needed is strong executive leadership to encourage other Federal agencies to purchase goods manufactured in UNICOR facilities.

Therefore, I ask that you lead a corresponding effort to reverse this trend of downsizing at FPI. In prisons, work is dignity, and it is essential for prisoners' rehabilitation and successful reentry into society. Inmates need to learn skills and behavior that will enable them to succeed in a job outside of prison. There is no excuse for not ensuring that every Federal prisoner has a job. By working with OMB and other agencies, DOJ can assist in finding new or expanded opportunities for FPI in Federal contracts.

Restoring FPI should be at the center of any plan to improve reentry programs for Federal prisoners. I would appreciate hearing from you promptly about ways you and the Department can exercise leadership within the Executive Branch to restore FPI and create more meaningful work opportunities for Federal inmates.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GME SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1852, the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) Support Reauthorization Act.

The future of pediatric health care cannot be compromised. As a supporter of the original legislation that established the CHGME program, and a cosponsor of H.R. 1852, I believe we must provide all the resources needed to guarantee that children's hospitals can continue to provide quality and timely care to their patients. As a mother and grandmother, I know how important it is for families in the Chicagoland area to know that Children's Memorial Hospital is there for them.

Support for physician education and training is essential to ensure patient access to care. Multiple expert bodies have identified a need for more pediatric subspecialists and have recommended expansion of medical education for pediatrics. In a letter to members of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the National Association of Children's Hospitals wrote that "thanks to CHGME, children's hospitals have enriched their training experience by providing greater community-based opportunities in underserved urban and rural areas. This has increased access to care and the likelihood that residents will practice in medically underserved areas."

The funding from the CHGME program helps to ensure that children have access to the trained professionals they need. CHGME currently provides funding to 56 hospitals in 30 states to support pediatric residency training. Today, freestanding children's hospitals train over 40 percent of pediatricians, 43 percent of pediatric specialists, and most pediatric researchers.

Taking care of the health needs of children must be a top priority—we cannot afford to jeopardize their well-being and future. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1852, doing so will help to ensure that children have access to the trained pediatricians they need.

FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, due to a funeral, I was regrettably unable to attend the Full Committee markup of H. Res. 255; H.R. 1447; H.R. 1299; H.R. 915; H.R. 1801; and H.R. 1165 held on September 21, 2011. I submit this statement for the record to reflect my support for each of the measures and amendments considered during the markup. However, in regard to H.R. 1299, my constituents and I have serious reservations over any legislative language that does not properly differentiate between high-risk areas like the U.S.-Mexico border and low-risk areas like the Cape Cod National Sea Shore. Although I understand that this bill's intention is not to pave the way for DHS to take jurisdiction over from the Department of the Interior, I hope that future discussions on our national security will take into account the differences between high-risk and low-risk borders to better address threats without sending the wrong message to residents who live in low-risk regions.

DR. ROBERT E. DUNKER

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize a constituent of mine, Dr. Robert E. Dunker.

Dr. Dunker recently retired from Western Iowa Tech Community College after a distinguished 20-year career. During his time at Western Iowa Tech, Dr. Dunker initiated and oversaw infrastructure improvements which have contributed to new program development and enrollment growth at the College. The infrastructure improvements have allowed Western Iowa Tech to create several new programs of study and to procure state-of-the-art equipment to best prepare students for what they will encounter in the workplace.

I can confidently say that I have known few people over the years who possess Dr. Dunker's vision and determination to effect positive change, not just for the students at Western Iowa Tech, but for the community at large. Dr. Dunker recognized early on that to meet the educational needs of the area, Western Iowa Tech needed to transition from a vocational/technical school to a full service, comprehensive community college, with arts and general science classes complementing the school's existing foundation of technical and career education. Dr. Dunker also saw the need to develop partnerships with area K–12 schools, postsecondary institutions, and the broader education community in order to leverage the educational resources of Western Iowa for the betterment of all Iowans.

I know that Dr. Dunker will be missed in his capacity as President of Western Iowa Tech, not only by me but by all of the stakeholders who have built partnerships and working relationships with him throughout the years. However, knowing Dr. Dunker as I do, I know that retirement will not diminish his passion for effecting positive changes in western Iowa. I look forward to continuing my relationship with Dr. Dunker, and I wish him the very best in all that's before him in retirement.

HONORING DR. GERI BERGER

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in honor of Dr. Geri Berger. Dr. Berger is the recipient of the 2011 Texas Association of Secondary School Principals Texas High School Principal of the Year Award. She is the Principal at the Louis D. Brandeis High School, Northside in San Antonio in the Independent School District, and I am honored to have students in my district attend the school under her exceptional leadership.

Dr. Berger began her noteworthy career with a Bachelor of Science in Education from St. Mary's University and a Master of Arts and Doctorate in Education from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Since coming to the Brandeis High School, she has brought her lifelong dedication to excellence in education, and it shows in the success of her teachers and students. Dr. Berger has worked tirelessly to ensure that Brandeis High School is a place where each and every student can improve and thrive. Under her leadership, the Louis D. Brandeis High School was named an Exemplary School by the Texas Education Agency, in 2009, another testament to her outstanding direction.

By ensuring that Brandeis High School improves each year offering students the best possible education they can receive, Dr. Berger is tirelessly working to ensure that the next generation's Americans receive a top-notch education and are ready to compete on a global scale. Dr. Berger is an extraordinary example to principals across Texas and the nation. I thank her for her hard work and enthusiasm and congratulate her on her remarkable accomplishment.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 23

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Corinne Ann Beckwith, and Catharine Friend Easterly, both to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Ronald David McCray, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

SD–342

OCTOBER 4

10 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the economic outlook.

SH–216