

These misguided pieces of legislation would undermine the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to enforce the Clean Air Act and significantly limit the federal government's ability to ensure that the air we breathe is safe and pollution-free.

Sadly, these bills are just the latest in a long line of bills from the majority that put big polluter profits before the health and safety of the American people. From the Dirty Air Act that would remove EPA's statutory authority to regulate carbon pollution to legislation that exempts offshore drilling operations from having to control their pollution emissions and legislation that would allow power plants to emit more and more toxic air pollution, the majority seems intent on rolling back programs that preserve our environment, protect our public health, and grow our economy.

For forty years the Clean Air Act has been successful in protecting public health and preventing deaths from respiratory disease because it was written to follow science as science evolved. The success of the Clean Air Act is because its regulations are based in science. Legislators shouldn't pretend to be scientists.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on these dangerous bills.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA AND ITS PRESIDENT, RANJU BATRA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Association of Indians in America and its President, my good friend Ms. Ranju Batra, on the occasion of its 24th annual celebration of the festival of Diwali at the historic South Street Seaport in lower Manhattan.

The theme of the Association's celebration this year, "Non-Violence in Today's World," is more salient than ever. Most fittingly, it takes place on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. With more than a thousand attendees expected from all across the greater New York metropolitan region, this year's Diwali celebration will be a highlight of the year for AIA and its distinguished new President, Ms. Ranju Batra.

Founded in 1967, the Association of Indians in America is the oldest association of Indians in America. The New York chapter includes members from across the tri-state region, and prides itself on its tradition of openness and respect for persons of all religious faiths. Its membership is a microcosm of the extraordinary diversity of the Indian community in the New York area, with all regions and religions of India represented, as well as a wide range of professions, backgrounds and occupations. AIA's New York chapter performs countless acts of public service and philanthropy, reflecting its motto, "Indian Heritage and American Commitment."

Diwali is a holiday that celebrates the victory of good over evil and awareness of one's

inner light, the dispelling of ignorance, and the realization of knowledge of and insight. Through intriguing exhibits, stirring music and dance performances, fine cuisine, inspirational oratory from featured speakers, and a dazzling fireworks display over the East River, this year's festival is helping to educate New Yorkers about Diwali and its celebration by adherents of Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism, and thereby promoting awareness and appreciation of South Asian culture and its amazing richness and diversity.

I am proud to salute my good friend Ranju Batra on her election as President of AIA, a recognition by her peers in the Indian-American community of her leadership abilities and passion for serving others. In addition to AIA, which she has served as Cultural Chair for several years, Ranju Batra has demonstrated her commitment to numerous worthwhile charitable organizations, including the Hindu Center; Arya Samaj of Westchester County, New York; and Children's Hope. A loving wife to her husband, Ravi, and a caring mother to their children, she is deservedly a widely respected leader of the South Asian community in the nation's largest metropolitan area.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Association of Indians in America and its President, Ms. Ranju Batra, for their extraordinary contributions to the civic life of our nation.

CONGRATULATING WEIRS BEACH RESIDENT ROBERT LAWTON ON THE 20TH YEAR OF THE WEIRS TIMES AND TOURISTS' GAZETTE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on September 21, 2011 I had the privilege of nominating Robert Lawton of Weirs Beach, New Hampshire to be a recipient of the prestigious Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications First Amendment Award. After a lifetime of giving to his community as an entrepreneur, New Hampshire historian and Representative to the General Court, Bob re-launched the 19th Century newspaper The Weirs Times and Tourists' Gazette in 1992. Now in its 20th year, the newspaper started with an initial run of only 2,000 copies distributed in the Laconia area each week. Bob and his son David have since grown circulation to almost 30,000 copies across the state.

At age 80, retirement is not an issue for Bob. Opening his businesses at eight o'clock in the morning he demonstrates the true spirit of the Greatest Generation—its exemplary work ethic. Bob often says, "I like to be busy, I like to be working, I like to keep moving, I like to be thinking of new things all the time."

His thoughtful respect for New Hampshire history, and interest in the community, has successfully resurrected a Lakes Region icon—The Weirs Times. By spreading his opinion and stories about current events and bringing to light our state's historical backdrop, all Granite Staters are in debt to him for continuing to "think of new things all the time."

I commend the work of Mr. Lawton and for his outstanding support of the community. I

wish him the very best and many more years of success ahead.

HONORING NICHOLAS STALLWORTH HARE ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend very special birthday greetings to an honored member of the South Alabama legal community. Next week, Nick Hare will celebrate his 100th birthday among the company of a proud family and many loyal friends in his hometown of Monroeville.

Born on October 11, 1911, "Mr. Nick" graduated from Northwood School, Lake Placid, New York, in 1930. He received his college undergraduate degree with honors from Auburn University (Alabama Polytechnic Institute) in 1932, and three years later earned his law degree from the University of Alabama.

After completing his education, Nick joined his cousin, Francis Hare, in the practice of law in Birmingham. Soon after, World War II intervened and his country called. Nick was inducted into the Army Air Corps where he honorably served America, including working on the famous Manhattan Project to produce the atomic bomb.

After his distinguished military service, Nick returned to Alabama and opened his law office in Monroeville. He soon entered politics, being elected to the Alabama legislature in 1954. During his tenure in Montgomery, Nick served as chair of the Judiciary Advisory Council. He left office in 1959 assuming the role of Assistant Attorney General under Alabama Attorney General MacDonalld Gallion. While on the Attorney General's staff, Nick worked with Governor John Patterson to combat loan sharks victimizing Alabamians.

In 1960, Nick turned his gaze to Mobile after he was appointed chief legal counsel for the Alabama State Docks under director Earl McGowan. Later, during the Reagan administration, he served the federal government as an appointee to represent the United States in legal seminars with the People's Republic of China.

Nick Hare has accomplished much in his 100 years. He's been an Army Air Corpsman, a legislator, a state official, federal appointee and a lifelong attorney representing the best interests of the people of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, it is not uncommon to laud someone you respect with the compliment "they're a gentleman and a scholar". In "Mr. Nick's" case, he truly is both. A nationally recognized legal mind, an inventor holding eight patents, and an active member of his community, Nicolas Stallworth Hare is a true gentleman and a scholar and a very dear friend to many, many people.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and this House, I am pleased to offer Nick our very best wishes on his 100th birthday. May he continue to have a long, happy and healthy life for many years to come.