EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SHAWN NELSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF TEMECULA

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable public service of Shawn Nelson as he retires as City Manager of the City of Temecula, California.

Joining the City of Temecula in 1999, Mr. Nelson has been instrumental in improving the structure and services of the community. During his time, the City has grown quickly adding 32,000 new residents. Because of this, he has supported efficient community development, economic expansion, and job growth, making Temecula one of the most vibrant communities in the region. Mr. Nelson has worked tirelessly to improve infrastructure and has helped to encourage private investment in community projects.

Mr. Nelson has a long history of public service. Prior to his role in Temecula, he graduated from California State University, San Bernardino, in 1994 with a Masters of Public Administration. He has served as the Deputy City Manager of the City of Corona, was the Director of Community Services for the City of Temecula, the Parks Director for 29 Palms Park & Recreation District, the Recreation Supervisor for the 29 Palms Park & Recreation District, and the Recreation Leader of the Yucca Valley Park and Recreation District. His work has illustrated his dedication to the communities that he has served.

It is an honor to recognize Mr. Nelson on the occasion of his retirement after three decades of contributions to California communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to please join me in recognizing Mr. Shawn Nelson's dedicated service to the City of Temecula and the state of California.

KEEP PAYMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring before the House some serious concerns I have regarding the impact of certain paperwork reduction measures that are being considered by various agencies of the federal government and the seeming lack of concern on how this changes will affect senior citizens in North Carolina's 8th District.

We are all aware of the need to make government more efficient and reduce the costs of services. The revolution in digital communications offers opportunities to do exactly that. However, I have noticed a troubling trend. In the rush to achieve these efficiencies, we may be unintentionally harming some of the most vulnerable people in our society by imposing new costs on folks with limited options.

For example, in May, the Social Security Administration implemented the first phase of a plan to eliminate the mailing of Social Security checks to recipients who have not registered for direct deposit of their monthly benefit checks. There are a number of reasons why all citizens don't sign up for direct deposit. Some like to physically take their check to the bank to be sure of the date it was actually deposited. There are others who are honestly skeptical of financial institutions and simply don't trust the direct deposit process. Another category is the so-called ''un-banked'' and they simply do not own a banking account.

A growing number of citizens, Mr. Speaker, are increasingly concerned about cyber-security and identity theft. They are limiting their use of computer technology for their most sensitive and important financial transactions. And with each week bringing news of data thefts, cyber security breaches and phishing scams, who can blame them?

So in place of their Social Security check, the Social Security Administration has begun to send out a debit card that will allow recipients to access their Social Security benefits electronically. Here's the problem: If you don't have a bank account and you are already skeptical of electronic transactions, how does a debit card work for you? It is very possible that many of the places folks in my district shop simply don't accept electronic payments. And for you to get cash from an ATM to use in those places means you are now paying a fee—after the first free transaction—for the privilege of spending your hard-earned Social Security Benefits.

What are older Americans to do when more of their limited income goes to pay bank fees for use of their debit cards? It would seem to me that instead of creating a more efficient and fiscally responsible government we may instead be shifting costs from the government to people least able to pay for the increased cost of these services. These unfair fees amount to a new tax on consumers.

Another example of the push to go completely electronic is the recent announcement by the Social Security Administration regarding the annual earnings statements. Not only is it an important tool for retirement planning, but it is also a critical way for hard working wage earners to confirm that the government has accurately recorded their earnings. The mailing of these statements is being discontinued. A more limited version of the form will eventually be available online, however, the all-important listing of a citizen's earnings by year will not appear in the online version.

Now why would citizens who are already concerned about cyber-security want to log in with sensitive Social Security information in order to check their records? And for those citizens without a computer or the skills to use one, this new policy simply denies them the benefits of seeing the annual earnings statement altogether.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the digital revolution holds great promise for our nation. But we need to make sure in our ''rush to digitize'' that we are not leaving the middle class and vulnerable citizens behind and that the cost efficiencies we are creating are not simply a matter of shifting costs from the government to the people who cannot afford to pay another tax.

How do we make sure of that? One effective method would be through a comprehensive federal policy that will guide federal agencies in making sure that their digital transitions do not disenfranchise key blocks of our citizens. We should seriously consider a tough set of oversight hearings in the U.S. Congress to make sure that digital policies are being implemented fairly and deliberately.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot and we do not want to turn back the clock on the digital revolution. In an era when private sector financial institutions are implementing significant fees on customers who wish to continue to receive paper statements, however, we cannot allow our federal government to follow a similar path. Such discriminatory fees are wrong and we must insure that our government continues to serve all our citizens and does not adopt policies regarding access to information that penalize key segments of our population.

All Americans should be able to benefit from the digital revolution. However, the federal government must assure that its policies treat all Americans equally, with services provided in a manner and method that can be effectively utilized, whether on paper or otherwise. We owe it to all our citizens to insure these basic protections.

HONORING DOCTOR LUIS SERENTILL

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Luis H. Serentill, an outstanding physician and person who supports our community and the ideals of freedom and democracy.

Dr. Serentill is a professor of surgery at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at Florida International University. Graduated from the Salamanca University School of Medicine in Spain in 1968, and has been practicing in Florida since 1974. During this time he has served as a diplomat to the American Board of Surgery, and was also appointed to the Florida Board of Medicine by Governor Bob Martinez from 1987 to 1991. He has been Chairman of the Department of Surgery at various hospitals in Charlotte County, Florida and President of the Charlotte County Medical Society.

One of Dr. Serentill's proudest moments was when he was able to join the operation

"Sea Signal" Joint Task Force 160 at Guantanamo Bay in 1994. For his voluntary service to this operation he received a citation from the Commander. It is instances such as these that demonstrate Dr. Serentill's unselfish character and dedication to service.

On July 3, 2011, Dr. Serentill was awarded the Medal of the Order of Dr. Carlos J. Finlay for distinguished services to his profession and services to honor underserved nations. Dr. Serentill has always expressed his belief in the greatness of his adopted homeland, and the opportunities our nation provides. He continues to practice surgery and teach in Miami Dade County, and was recently appointed as the Scientific Director of the XXI International Medical Congress of the Cuban Medical Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. Luis H. Serentill for his continued service to the Miami community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

IN HONOR OF PHIL TISI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our communities thrive when their citizens contribute to the common good and general betterment of their home towns, serving for the love of their community. Phil Tisi is such a man. He has held, with distinction, many positions in the educational field as a leader, an educator, administrator and college adjunct instructor. After serving for 38 years in the school system and in various capacities at the high school and the Ramapo Central School District, he recently retired as Chairman of the Suffern High School Social Studies Department. In addition, for over a decade he has served as Deputy Supervisor, Interim Supervisor, and Assistant to the Supervisor in the Town of Ramapo.

When organizations are successful quite often it's because of one person making a difference, and in many cases in Ramapo that person is Phil Tisi. He has helped many communities and their leaders in the Town of Ramapo, as well as individuals, and non-profit agencies throughout Rockland County.

He is an integral part of successful patriotic and community events and town programs in general. He is especially helpful to veterans organizations, including, and perhaps especially, the Fred Hecht Post of the Jewish War Veterans, who are honoring him.

He has served as Co-Chair of all of their past thirteen concert programs of the Support the Troops and Salute to the Veterans. With his help, more than $550,000 was raised to ship gift-paks and GI travel/hygiene kits to our troops overseas in the Middle East and our Wounded Warriors in military hospitals. Phil Tisi has been commended 33 times for his good work with veteran groups, civic organizations and government agencies.

He was born in Dobbs Ferry and he and his wife, Alicia Cameron Tisi, a retired Registered Nurse, have three sons and a daughter.

I am proud to join in recognizing Phil Tisi for being an outstanding citizen and civic leader who has worked for his community and for our brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces. He is a shining example of what a citizen can accomplish for his community.

PROTECT LIFE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 358, the Protect Life Act.

Our first priorities in the House of Representatives must be helping to foster job creation and supporting middle class families. We are now 280 days in this Congress without passing a jobs plan.

Instead, the Republicans have chosen to continue their radical assault on reproductive health care in the guise of preventing the use of federal funds to pay for abortion procedures. These bills and amendments are as unnecessary as they are offensive. Federal law already prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for abortion services except when a woman's life is endangered or she is a victim of rape or incest.

H.R. 358 would impose unprecedented limitations on comprehensive reproductive health services that go far beyond current law.

The bill would force health plans to drop comprehensive coverage in state health insurance exchanges. The bill would allow hospitals to refuse to provide life-saving care to women—even if they are facing an imminent threat of death. Further, the provisions in this bill are so broad that it would allow states to prohibit access to birth control, including providing emergency contraception to sexual-assault survivors.

This bill claims that it would protect life. But the bill could end the lives of women who are in need of life-saving emergency care. Sadly, we have all heard of the stories of women who are faced with the heart-wrecking decision to terminate their pregnancies when they are told that their baby will not survive to term. This bill will prevent women in that difficult situation from receiving needed health care services even if they are facing a life-threatening situation themselves.

This bill goes farther than ever in an extreme attempt to limit health coverage for American women, and make a legal, constitutionally protected medical procedure inaccessible to women.

Instead of debating how to put Americans back to work, we are again spending our time debating a bill that would result in substandard health care for millions of Americans.

I strongly oppose H.R. 358 and urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this dangerous piece of legislation.

IN HONOR OF STEVEN ALTARESCU

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the education of our children is one of our most important tasks, preparing them for adulthood. At the Riverdale Temple the staff has been enormously helped by Rabbinic Intern Steven Altarescu, who has taught 3rd through 5th grades as well as an adult education course on Relationship in the Torah—Love, Sex and Violence; Parents and Children, Husbands and Wives, Siblings, Lovers, Us and God. The course is so popular that the congregants look forward to him returning next year to teach it.

He lives in Riverdale and is in his fourth year of rabbinical school at the Academy for Jewish Religion, a pluralistic seminary in Riverdale. He has also taught fourth, fifth and second grades at Temple Beth Shalom in neighboring Hastings-on-Hudson for thirteen years.

He is married and the father of two grown daughters, three stepdaughters and one stepson.

Steven brings a passion for Jewish spirituality, prayer and Torah study to our Temple and has contributed to a successful year in ways far beyond his actual responsibilities as our Rabbinic Intern. Steven has participated in worship services, preached, chanted Torah, and—behind the scenes—been the most generous, gracious and always available member of our synagogue staff.

The Riversdale Temple is grateful and proud to publicly acknowledge Steven's many, many contributions to the congregation, and to wish him every success in the rest of his rabbinic education, and in his future service to the Jewish community. I am proud to join the Riverdale Temple in this recognition and in the knowledge that his presence as a member of the rabbinate is a source of strength.

IN HONOR OF ELOUISE COBELL

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elouise Cobell who passed away on Sunday, October 16, 2011. This extraordinary individual led a 15 year fight on behalf of nearly 500,000 Native Americans who had their trusts mismanaged by the federal government.

Elouise Cobell filed a lawsuit in 1996 seeking justice for herself and the half million other American Indians who had their assets mismanaged by the U.S. Department of the Interior. After a lengthy battle in the courts, a $3.4 billion settlement was announced in December 2009.

However, the fight was not over for Elouise Cobell. While a settlement was reached, Congress would still have to authorize payment for the settlement.

I was proud to support the Claims Resolution Act when it came before the House on November 30, 2010. This legislation authorized $3.4 billion to settle the lawsuit, which became known as Cobell v. Salazar. The Claims Resolution also established a $60 million education scholarship fund for Native American children. President Obama signed the Claims Resolution Act into law on December 8, 2010. This law came about because of Elouise Cobell's dedication in pursuing justice for the Native American community.

Mr. Speaker, California is home to over 100 federally recognized tribes. These tribes will

reap the benefits of the works of Elouise Cobell.

I am also a proud member of the Native American Caucus. Elouise Cobell's dedication and courage is not just an inspiration to Native Americans, but to all Americans. Her work will not only benefit American Indians now, but also the generations that follow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of Elouise Cobell.

IN HONOR OF DEACONESS MATTIE LEE DIXON DAVIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Deaconess Mattie Lee Dixon Davis didn't arrive in New York City until she was 39 but still she has lived here for 61 years and is celebrating her 100th birthday today.

She was born in Alabama on April 11, 1911 to Willie and Elar Dixon who had a farm in McWilliams. After graduating from Conecuh County Training School she married the Reverend Albert A. Davis, II who was pastor to many of the leading African Methodist Episcopal Churches. He served as Presiding Elder of Troy and then joined the larger Ozark District where Mrs. Dixon served as District Adviser of the Women's Missionary for nine years.

She worked as a substitute teacher in public schools and thanks to her earlier training she was seamstress and hairdresser to her family, her church family, and to her friends and neighbors.

In May, 1950, Rev. Dixon came to the St. Luke A.M.E. Church in New York City's Sugar Hill neighborhood where for 16 years Mrs. Dixon served as Advisor to the Missionary Society and President of the Women's Club. The Missionary Society became so large that she reorganized it into five 'circles,' a structure that continues to this day.

Missionary work was always her main interest and she held several statewide offices in the New York Conference Branch Missionary Society including Second Vice President for three years, and Treasurer for eight years. She also served as President of the New York A.M.E. Ministers Wives and Widowers Alliance and Secretary of the Interdenominational Ministers Wives and Widows Alliance.

She and the Rev. Dixon moved to St. Steven Community A.M.E. Church where the Rev. Dixon served until he died 16 years later.

Her ambition was always to become a nurse, but raising their five children and missionary work made that impossible. But several years ago she helped a friend, a nurse, operate a 'House of Love' where patients discharged from hospitals, but too ill to go home, stayed. Here she not only helped with the daily care and feeding of these gravely ill people, but learned how to give medications and to handle injections. She was finally nursing, helping people in this hospice precursor.

Around this time she was consecrated a Deaconess at the Allen Cathedral A.M.E. Church by Bishop Franklin Norris.

I join her community in honoring this wonderful woman who gave a century of love and good works to the world. We are blessed to have her.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN A. GIRGENTI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an outstanding American and public servant, Senator John A. Girgenti, who will be recognized on Monday, October 24, 2011 for his many years of service to his community and to New Jersey's Legislature.

John A. Girgenti was born in Paterson on August 8, 1947. He attended Hawthorne High School then continued on to Seton Hall University. After receiving a B.A. degree in Political Science, cum laude, in 1969, he completed his M.A. in Government and Public Administration from St. John's University.

Senator Girgenti was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1977, and re-elected six times. While in the Assembly he served as Chairman of the Municipal Government Committee and Deputy Majority Leader. As an Assemblyman, John sponsored legislation that created the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, successfully imposing the first "tax on crime."

In March of 1990, John Girgenti was chosen by district Democrats to fill the State Senate seat left vacant by the death of Frank X. Graves, Jr. He was sworn into the Senate on April 5th and was elected to his first full-term in the Senate on November 5, 1991. Since then he has been re-elected five times.

During his time in the legislature Senator Girgenti has sponsored many important pieces of legislation that have become law. He was one of the first State Senators to call for enhanced fingerprinting requirements for state employees involved with domestic security following the attacks on 9/11. Senator Girgenti has also fought to update and modernize New Jersey's background check laws so municipalities can identify potential threats before it is too late.

Following the Seton Hall University dormitory fire in 2000 Senator Girgenti was instrumental in putting forth legislation that mandates and provides funding for sprinkler installation in New Jersey college dormitories. He has also sponsored other landmark legislative measures that include Megan's Law, Amber Alert and the Paterson Urban Enterprise Zone Program. The Senator spearheaded the reinstatement of the Paterson Motor Vehicle Agency and was the momentum behind it's reopening in 2008.

In response to the growing gang problem in New Jersey, Senator Girgenti has helped formulate pragmatic legislative solutions to eliminate criminal street gangs. He formed a "Gang Task Force" in 2006 composed of experts from government, law enforcement, education, local clergy and recreation to review and evaluate legislative measures aimed at circumventing gang activity.

The Senator has also fought to create the State Public Safety Interoperable Communications Coordinating Council, which would allow first responders (police, firefighters and emergency workers) to communicate between agencies on a single assigned radio frequency. Senator Girgenti also pushed for increased aid to the New Jersey National Guard.

Senator Girgenti is currently the Chairman of the Law & Public Safety Committee and Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also serves on the Senate Transportation Committee. On April 5, 2011 Senator Girgenti announced that he will not seek re-election to the Senate in 2011. His leadership in the state will be missed by his colleagues and his constituency.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated public servants like John Girgenti.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, John's wife Rose, their family and friends, the members of the New Jersey State Legislature and me in recognizing John A. Girgenti's outstanding service to his community and the entire State of New Jersey.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR EDMUND W. GORDON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Professor Edmund W. Gordon is among the most distinguished behavioral pedagogical scientists in the United States and one of the very few in the world to hold two endowed Ivy League professorships at Columbia and Yale universities.

More directly related to my Congressional District, he is Senior Scholar in Residence at State University of New York Rockland Community College as well as at the College Board.

His distinguished career encompasses not only professorial practices but scholarship, clinical and counseling psychology, research, author, editor, and minister. Besides Columbia and Yale, he has held appointments at Howard and Harvard Universities.

He has written text books that are considered classics in their field, as well as more than 200 articles in scholarly journals and he is still going in his eighties. He and his wife, Dr. Susan Gordon, have lived in Rockland County for more than 55 years and with whom he co-founded CEJJES Institute and Conference Center in Pomona. Their four children attended the local Ramapo schools and both parents were very active in the PTA, school board elections, and other community matters.

Dr. Gordon is being honored by the Howard University Alumni Association for his seemingly unending contributions to society. As a former teacher I join with HUAA in congratulating Dr. Gordon for these contributions which have advanced education in our society over the course of generations.

HONORING PHYLLIS MARINO FOR HER INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to my dear friend, Phyllis Marino, as she is honored by the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee with one of their 2011 Women's Leadership Awards. Phyllis has been a mainstay of the New Haven political arena for as long as I can remember and today her many contributions will be recognized with this very special award.

Each year, in the spirit of the late Governor Ella Grasso, the Democratic State Central Committee selects ten women whose extraordinary leadership and contributions have made a difference in their communities. The annual Women's Leadership Awards celebrate the innumerable ways in which women, through their work in the political arena, have helped to shape our communities.

The letter nominating Phyllis for consideration said it best—''In life, never mind in politics, you meet very few people who do what they do every day because they believe in a cause and not to benefit themselves—a person who truly gives of themselves with no expectation in return. She is also a person of conviction . . . and her word is her bond no matter what the consequences.'' I could not describe Phyllis better than that.

Her involvement in the New Haven community came at a very young age. Like so many of us, Phyllis learned the value of community service at the feet of her parents. She stuffed envelopes, campaigned door-to-door, and made thousands of phone calls on behalf of candidates and issues. As a young adult, she was charged with managing headquarters and political operations throughout the city. Phyllis earned the most distinguished of reputations and for many years she has been the one that newcomers turn to when they want to get involved. She has guided countless young people to success and has served as an inspiration to them all.

Her history with city of New Haven, its residents, and the many changes they have witnessed over the years makes Phyllis an invaluable resource to anyone who wants to get involved in New Haven's political arena. I would be remiss if I did not extend a personal note of thanks to Phyllis. I have known Phyllis most of my life—our fathers were good friends and worked together in the community. Phyllis has long been one that I can always count on for support and encouragement. People often invoke the phrase ''I stand on the shoulders of giants''—for me one of those giants is Phyllis Marino.

I am proud to join her son and daughter-in-law, Pat and Pam; her daughter, Andrea; grandson, Gennaro; and all of those who have gathered today to congratulate Phyllis Marino as she receives this well-deserved recognition.

IN HONOR OF DR. SUSAN S. GORDON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Susan S. Gordon has, for more than 50 years, lived and has been active in Pomona where she and her husband, Dr. Edmund W. Gordon, raised four children and where she was active in her school district, her community and as a pediatrician.

She graduated from the Howard University College of Medicine and is a Licentiate of the American Board of Pediatrics and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She was also named an Associate Professor of Pediatrics, initially at New York Medical College and then at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. From 1978 to 1981 she was a member of the National Panel on the Measurement of the Program Effects of Head Start.

For eight years she served on the Board of Education of the East Ramapo Central School District, where, for three years, she was also president. She also served, for 20 years, on the board of the Lexington School for the Deaf where the Health Center was named in her honor. She added to her humane service resume by travelling to West Africa for four summers to train workers in providing educational and health services and in Nicaragua she trained local people in family planning and child health maintenance.

Both she and her husband are in the Rockland County Hall of Fame. Dr. Gordon is being honored by the Howard University Alumni Association for their life's work and outstanding contributions to society. I join with HUAA in honoring Dr. Gordon for her outstanding record of accomplishment, in Rockland and Westchester and throughout the world.

IN CELEBRATION OF JOHN J. AREIAS' 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 90th birthday of Mr. John J. Areias, a respected leader, distinguished dairyman, and wonderful father, grandfather, and friend. His contributions to our community have been immeasurable and have made the San Joaquin Valley a better place to live.

John J. Areias was born on April 27, 1921 to Jesse Areias and Genevive Silva Areias, who emigrated to the United States from Portugal's Azore Islands. John, his parents, and eight siblings settled in Volta, California, where they operated a small dairy. A proud product of the Central Valley, John graduated from Volta Elementary School as the valedictorian and then Los Banos High School, where he was a part of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and served as Senior Class President.

As a young man, John's passion for agriculture was evident. In high school, he traveled with the FFA to the International World Fair in Treasure Island and to the California State Fair to show cattle. It was also at this time that he met the love of his life, Mary, whom he later married. One of John's fondest memories is driving his future bride around in his 1939 Plymouth Deluxe Rumble Seat Convertible.

Soon thereafter, John and Jess, his brother, went into the dairy business. Their pioneering spirit made them innovators in the dairy industry; their dairy was the first Grade A dairy in the Los Banos Dairymen's Association. Eventually, John and Jess became the operators of one of the largest dairies in California, shipping approximately 150 cans of milk every day. Despite their massive success, their dairy operation remained a family business at heart—their children would often ride along in the milk truck during deliveries. John's success allowed him the opportunity to operate ranches throughout the west side of Merced County, California, which included 6,000 acres of land and 4,500 head of cattle.

Through all of his professional endeavors, John has found time to serve his community. A devout Catholic, he served as Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he was active in the Portuguese Fraternal Order. His consistent involvement in our community makes him an invaluable asset to the people of the Central Valley.

John's wife, Mary passed away in 1980 after a brave battle with cancer. Together they have four wonderful children: Marcia, Lucia, Kathleen, and Rusty, all of who have accomplished great things. John is also the proud grandfather to Evan, Nina, Bianca, Alexis, and Austin.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank John for his wonderful contributions to our Valley. His commitment to family, community leadership, and hard work is admirable and makes him a role model for our entire community. I join the rest of John's family and friends in wishing him a blessed 90th birthday and continued health and happiness in years to come.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM GONZALEZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is such an integral part of so many lives in our communities that it is with some sadness that I congratulate William Gonzalez, the Operations Supervisor of the West Nyack office on his retirement after 35 years of exemplary service.

He has faithfully served the people in my district for those years, starting as a Claims Development Clerk in the Baychester district office in the Bronx. After a short time, he rose to Claims Representative. He later served as a Field Representative and became an Operations Supervisor in 1989. He was reassigned to the West Nyack, NY district office in 1996 and established himself, over many years, as a liaison for a number of community and social agencies such as the Department of Social Services, Housing and Urban Development and as a contact for law enforcement in Rockland County.

He received many performance awards throughout his career including recognition for his pivotal role in the Region's Bi-Lingual Interviewing Skills Training initiative and for his

participation in supervisory training for his peers.

He always managed to find time for many community service endeavors. He chaired the Suffern Community Development committee from 1998 through 2004. He was an original member of the Suffern Community Foundation and participates in the Friends of Sloatsburg organization. He currently serves as an elected member of the Ramapo Central School Board, coached little league for many years and, most recently, has coached the Suffern High School varsity bowling team.

Bill and his wife Ada have two children; Eric a graduate of Syracuse University, and Alexandra, attending Siena College.

I want to congratulate Bill Gonzalez for his great service over so long a period to the people of New York. He has truly earned a happy retirement.

HONORING BISHOP QUINCY LAVELLE CARSWELL

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, is celebrating fifty (50) years in preaching the gospel this year and has provided stellar leadership to his church on an international level; and

Whereas, Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, under the guidance and calling of God began preaching the word of God as a child and has transformed over the years as pastor of the historic Tabernacle Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, from 1975–1992, founding Covenant Ministries of Metropolitan Atlanta in 1993; and

Whereas, from Miami, Florida to Atlanta, Georgia, he has transformed, trail blazed and taught the gospel on a national and international level wherein the lives of many have been touched; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has been and continues to be a blessing to us as a spiritual leader, an educator and a community leader who not only talks the talk, but walks the walk; and

Whereas, Bishop Carswell is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, as he celebrates his 50th Pastoral Anniversary;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim October 23, 2011, as Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 23rd day of October, 2011.

IN HONOR OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ILLYRIA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Illyria, the Albanian-American newspaper. Illyria has been in the forefront of supporting the aspirations of the Albanian people in The Balkans for 20 years.

As the Albanian people of Kosova in the former Yugoslavia emerged from the domination of Serbia, and Albania emerged from the shadow of communism in 1991, Albanian-Americans were in need of information about their homeland, and a common voice to bring their community together. In that time of great transition, Harry Bajraktari, an Albanian immigrant from Kosova who had built a successful real estate business from scratch in the Bronx, founded and published Illyria, and published it twice weekly in both English and Albanian.

From the beginning, Illyria provided a valuable bridge among Albanians in the U.S. and abroad, and our leaders in the United States. Through the dedication and passion of Mr. Bajraktari and his colleagues, Illyria championed the causes of human rights, democracy and freedom for the people of Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and for a free and independent Republic of Kosova. During the Yugoslav wars and the struggles of Albanians in Kosova against the regime of Slobodon Milosevic, Illyria promoted peaceful solutions for Albanians and their neighbors. Diplomats at the United Nations, members of Congress, officials at the State Department, the White House and think tanks in Washington were among those who used Illyria as a resource.

Now in more peaceful times for Albanians, Illyria, true to its immigrant roots, continues to build ties between the Albanians and the United States, promoting friendship between our countries and highlighting the contributions of Albanian immigrants to the United States. The long list of distinguished Albanian-Americans introduced to readers by Illyria includes a Nobel-Prize winner, an engineer who oversaw the flight of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, a former NASA astronaut who flew into space on the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*, famous actors, directors and TV personalities, and successful professionals of various fields.

The torch of owning and publishing Illyria was passed from Mr. Bajraktari to Ekrem Bardha, a successful Albanian-American businessmen from Michigan and then to Vehbi Bajrami, a dedicated publisher. Through two decades and three owners, Illyria has been a consistent voice for tolerance and truth. As Ismail Kadare, the internationally-renowned Albanian writer said, Illyria has kept "only one passion as sacred: its dedication to the freedom and the happiness of the Albanian people." Mr. Speaker, these are two of the principles that have made this country the greatest democracy in the world, and which unite Albania and the United States in friendship today.

With thousands of readers from New York to Alaska, Illyria newspaper is truly an American institution—politically independent and true to the best values of American journalism. In short, Illyria embodies the American dream. I join with Harry Bajraktari and with Albanian-Americans in the United States and around the world, in wishing a happy 20th anniversary to Illyria newspaper.

IN HONOR OF MR. RANDELL McSHEPARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Randell McShepard, the vice president of public affairs for RPM International, Inc., for being named the 2011 Black Professional of the Year by the Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation (BPACF).

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. McShepard graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. He later earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in psychology and communications from Baldwin-Wallace College before attending Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs to obtain a Master of Science degree in urban studies. He has since been inducted into the John F. Kennedy High School Hall of Fame and named a Distinguished Alumnus of Cleveland State University.

Prior to taking on his role as vice president of public affairs for RPM International, Inc., Mr. McShepard has held a number of roles in the non-profit sector. After graduating from Baldwin-Wallace College, he began working as the manager of the training services division for Vocational Guidance Services. Randell was responsible for the creation of a number of job training and placement programs for the vocational rehabilitation facility. He later began working for the Cleveland Bicentennial Commission as the assistant director of administration and program development. In May, 1997 Mr. McShepard became the executive director for City Year Cleveland where he led more than 220 corps members. He was hired by RPM International Inc. at the beginning of 2001 as their director of community affairs. In October 2007 he was promoted to his current role as vice president of public affairs.

In addition to his career, Mr. McShepard is an active member of the Greater Cleveland community and volunteers his time with several organizations. He serves as the Chairman-Emeritus for the Sisters of Charity Foundation, vice-chairman of the Fund for Our Economic Future, and is involved with Business Volunteers Unlimited, the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine and Baldwin-Wallace College.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Randell McShepard on being named the 2011 Black Professional of the Year.

HONORING DENNIS ZIEMIENSKI OF GLENN ELLEN, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative

LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor Dennis Ziemienski, the 2011 Sonoma Treasure Artist. An internationally known artist from Glenn Ellen, California, Mr. Ziemienski is also a prominent supporter of art events in the Sonoma Valley.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Dennis graduated from the California College of Arts and Crafts before moving to New York for a successful career in illustration and painting. He worked with Time-Life, Levi-Straus, Rolling Stone, and the New York Times and has created compelling images for many high profile clients such as Super Bowl XXIX, the Napa Mustard Festival, the Kentucky Derby, the California Railway Museum, and the San Francisco Zoo.

An internationally acclaimed painter, Dennis has had several solo exhibitions, won numerous awards, taught at prominent art schools, and illustrated well-known book covers. He has also volunteered his teaching skills at local schools and has donated auction paintings or created posters for local Sonoma Valley nonprofits.

Dennis' work is marked by fine draftsmanship and strong, richly colored images inspired by early 20th century painting and posters. He travels frequently to develop different ideas and sensibilities. ''I love to paint my native California and the West,'' he says, ''but the land of my ancestors, Italy and the Mediterranean, has also been a frequent subject . . . it is also important for me to use a romantic sense of history and place, when required, to create a vision that lures the viewer into the picture, creating the desire to 'be there.' ''

Dennis is married to artist Anne Ziemienski, and the couple's daughter, Sofia, attends the University of the Redlands.

Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to congratulate Dennis Ziemienski for his designation as the Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year for 2011. Please join us and the Sonoma Valley Community in celebrating his accomplishments and contributions.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLEVELAND TENANTS ORGANIZATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Cleveland Tenants Organization.

The Cleveland Tenants Organization was established in 1975 after the passage of the Ohio Landlord-Tenant Law to assist landlords and tenants in understanding the new law and their rights and responsibilities outlined in the law. The mission of the organization is to preserve and expand the supply of safe, decent, fair, affordable and accessible rental housing in Greater Cleveland by informing citizens of their rights and duties in rental housing; representing tenants and the interest of tenants in the preservation and promotion of rental housing rights; empowering tenants individually and collectively to represent themselves and their interests; advocating for the needs of low and moderate income tenants; resolving disputes between landlords and tenants; preventing homelessness; and combating discrimination in housing based on race, religion, color, gender, handicap, familial status, military status, social/economic class, and sexual orientation.

Over the past thirty-six years, the organization has continued to grow and expand to include programs and services for Greater Clevelander's concerned with rental information, foreclosure/eviction diversion, community education, equal housing opportunities, healthy homes and homeless prevention. In 2010, CTO reached out to and assisted over 35,000 households.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Cleveland Tenants Organization and their remarkable contributions to our community.

REGARDING THE PACKAGE OF TRADE BILLS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, my policy regarding trade agreements has always been to consider each agreement on its merits. I have supported some FTAs and I have opposed others based on a careful consideration of the details of the legislation and the pros and cons associated with them. In each case, I apply the following test: Will the agreement help the American economy and American workers?

It is by that standard that I measured the trade package we are considering today containing the House passed renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences for poor countries; trade adjustment assistance to support those American workers who may be harmed in specific cases; and the long pending free trade agreements with Panama, Korea and Colombia. After considering each of these agreements, I have decided to support them.

For too long, the U.S. automobile industry has had only limited access to Korea's auto market. In 2010, over 500,000 Korean autos were sold in the U.S. while only 14,000 American cars were sold in Korea. The Obama Administration negotiated with the Korean government and corrected that imbalance while increasing American access to other areas of the Korean economy such as its lucrative financial services and IT sectors. The agreement is supported by the United Auto Workers and the American auto industry.

The Panama FTA increases the access of American goods and services to Panama's economy while also addressing long-standing concerns about the quality of Panama's workers protections and about its status as a tax-haven for those Americans trying to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. Through close negotiation with the Panamanian government, the Obama Administration and Members of Congress have addressed those concerns.

The Colombia FTA is also a win for the American economy. The benefits Colombia has enjoyed as a result of its membership among the GSP recipient countries has meant that it has had significant and one-sided access to the American market. This FTA balances that relationship so that now American companies enjoy the same access to Colombia's growing economy that Colombia has enjoyed in the U.S. for decades.

Colombia has struggled with a violent past, including the targeted execution of labor organizers. With the accession of the Santos Administration and its commitment to addressing this serious problem, encouraging headway has been made. As an indication of its good faith, the Santos Administration has passed into law 75 percent of the requirements of the ''Action Plan'' it negotiated with the Obama Administration, including the adoption of standards required for approving trade agreements and establishing an ILO office in Bogota to monitor labor violations. Colombia has made significant progress toward penalizing those companies trying to circumvent collective bargaining agreements through the use of 'collectives' and it has created a separate Ministry of Labor to give Cabinet-level attention to critical labor issues. Passage of the Colombia FTA will encourage the Colombian government to continue these reforms.

Each of these bills increases opportunities for American companies and consumers while helping to spread those economic benefits widely for American workers here and abroad. The American economy cannot afford to sit on the sidelines as other countries form trade partnerships. As we aggressively pursue trade and export opportunities around the globe, steps we take to protect our workers at home, such as TAA, are critical.

Together, these trade measures represent the strong commitment of Congress and the Obama Administration to promoting job growth in the U.S. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting these important pieces of legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE RAYMOND PIANKA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Honorable Judge Raymond Pianka, who is being recognized at the Cleveland Tenants Organization's Masquerade Benefit on October 21, 2011.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Judge Pianka has dedicated his career to the betterment of the City of Cleveland. He attended Cleveland State University (CSU) and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. In 1977, he earned a Juris Doctor Degree from the CSU's Cleveland Marshall Law School and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1978. While attending school, Judge Pianka was instrumental in establishing one of the first neighborhood-based development organizations in Cleveland, the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization and became the executive director.

Judge Pianka ran and was elected to the Cleveland City Council in 1985. During his ten years in office, he served as chairman of the Community and Economic Development Committee and Legislative Committee. He was a major contributor for legislation regarding the Housing Trust fund, City Works Program, Landlord Drug House Responsibility Ordinance, Anti-Graffiti Ordinance, Regulation of Nuisance Pay Phones, Small Business Micro Loans, Preservation of Brick Streets, Tenant Emergency Water Turn On Act and the Land Bank Utilization Ordinance among others.

Judge Pianka was elected as the presiding and administrative judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court's Housing Division in 1996 and

continues to serve in this role. During his ongoing tenure, Judge Pianka has implemented the Selective Intervention Program and Warrant Capias Program. He has also developed the Landlord Seminar Workshop, Housing Code Enforcement Advocates Forum and educational materials for the public on topics concerning home maintenance, the law and the navigation of Housing Court.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Honorable Judge Raymond Pianka as he is recognized at the Cleveland Tenants Organization's Masquerade Benefit for his service and work to sustain Cleveland's neighborhoods.

HONORING JOSEPH GEREMIA AS HE IS HONORED BY THE CONNECTICUT GREENHOUSE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association as they pay tribute to one of their outstanding members and my good friend, Joe Geremia. Joe's extraordinary contributions to Connecticut's agriculture industry have gone a long way in ensuring that the needs of greenhouse growers are not only heard but acted upon. In fact, just last year, Joe was recognized for his incredible work by the State of Connecticut when he was named the 2010 Outstanding Young Farmer.

With an estimated three hundred commercial greenhouse businesses, housing eight million square feet of production space, greenhouse production is a critical piece of Connecticut's agriculture industry. Today, the production of flowers and plants is the biggest segment of Connecticut agriculture, accounting for nearly three-fourths of all crop agriculture. This makes Connecticut second in the Nation in terms of the proportion of ornamental horticulture to crop agriculture.

Agriculture is not only Joe's occupation, it is in his blood. Coming to America just after the turn of the century, Joe's grandfather raised vegetables on the family's sixteen-acre farm. His passion for growing was passed on to his children and eventually on to Joe who got started in the business working with his father. In the beginning, Joe's father had just half an acre in greenhouse production. Just after leaving high school, Joe jumped into the wholesale greenhouse business with both feet—and he has never looked back.

What is so wonderful about Joe is that he is always looking to learn, to expand his knowledge and apply all of that to his business. He traveled to the Netherlands to learn about the latest greenhouse, agriculture, and distribution technology as well as Ontario to observe their vegetable production research and learning systems. He brought the best of these lessons back to his own business and shared them with his fellow greenhouse growers. His dedication to finding solutions to agriculture's challenges is probably best evidenced in the research greenhouse that he built at Connecticut's Agriculture Experiment Station's Lockwood Farm where, in partnership with the Station and the University of Connecticut, Joe and scientists are investigating methods of eliminating wastewater and reducing fertilizer in run-off—a win-win by providing the industry with more efficient and cost-effective irrigation methods while also protecting the environment which they depend on for success.

One of the issues that Joe has devoted much of his time to is energy efficiency and it is through these efforts that I have gotten to know Joe so well. Over the last few years, he has retrofitted his greenhouse to be heated with biomass boilers instead of traditional oil. Utilizing this technology, Joe has not only created new business choices for himself, but has created new business for local arborists and landscapers whose wood waste products would otherwise be left to decay. I have been so impressed with his work that I have taken every opportunity to get our federal officials, like USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, out to see his operation. He is leading the way for Connecticut's agricultural future.

I am proud to stand today to join the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association as well as his wife, Dawn; their children, Madeline, Luke, and Liam; and the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to recognize the outstanding efforts of our friend, Joe Geremia. Congratulations Joe—with your enthusiasm, commitment and energy, there is nothing that you will not accomplish.

IN HONOR OF MR. RICHARD CORDRAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Richard Cordray, the former Attorney General of Ohio who is being recognized and is delivering the Keynote Speech at the Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People's (ESOP) Annual Gala.

Mr. Cordray was born on May 3, 1959 in Grove City, Ohio. He attended Grove City High School and graduated as the co-valedictorian of his class in 1977. He went on to attend Michigan State University's James Madison College and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in legal and political theory in 1981. During his undergraduate studies, Mr. Cordray interned for former U.S. Senator John Glenn. After completing his BA, he went on to earn his Master of Arts in economics from the University of Oxford and his Juris Doctor from the University of Chicago.

Mr. Cordray began his career as a law clerk for the U.S. Supreme Court and just two years after earning his J.D. was hired by the international law firm of Jones Day in Cleveland, Ohio. He ran and was elected as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives for the 33rd District from January 7, 1991 to December 31, 1992. Following his term in the Ohio State House, Mr. Cordray was appointed as the first Ohio State Solicitor and served in this role from September 1993 to 1994. He was elected to Ohio Democratic Party Central Committee in 1996. Following several years of private practice, Mr. Cordray served as Franklin County Treasurer from December 2002 to 2007. He successfully ran for Ohio State Treasurer in 2006 and held office until 2009 when he became the Ohio State Attorney General. Mr. Cordray's term as Ohio Attorney General ended in January 2011. He has been nominated by President Obama to serve as Director of the United States Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Mr. Cordray currently lives in Grove City, Ohio with his wife of ten years, Peggy. The couple has a set of twins, Danny and Holly.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Richard Cordray as he is honored by ESOP's Annual Gala on October 20, 2011.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM ''BILL'' ORTH

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Orth's years of tireless public service to Pennsauken Township, New Jersey. A beloved former Mayor and member of the Township Committee from 1981 to 2011, Mr. Orth has gone above and beyond in his dedication and commitment to his community.

Mr. Orth was determined to use his position to invigorate the township, spearheading a successful downtown revitalization campaign. He was instrumental in dedicating a monument and park to Pennsauken's veterans, and erecting a memorial sculpture in honor of the victims and heroes of 9/11. He has represented the township of Pennsauken and the state of New Jersey with enthusiasm and care, and Pennsauken and this Congress are proud to recognize him for the work he has done.

Mr. Orth also made it a priority to bring performers from far and wide to Pennsauken, and his devotion to widening the musical experiences of his community will be remembered for generations to come. His talent and loyalty to Pennsauken's musical theater community made Pennsauken's productions large-scale events.

In addition, Bill began the charitable organization, Pennsauken Neighbors Helping Neighbors, which gives small grants to community members in need to better their lives in times of financial difficulty. The charity's goal is simple: help Pennsauken residents help each other. This selflessness and desire to help others are perfectly representative of Bill Orth's attitude towards life.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Orth's endless dedication to Pennsauken Township should not go unrecognized. I join the township and all of South Jersey in paying tribute to this exceptional man.

IN HONOR OF THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALL & POST

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cleveland's Call & Post newspaper

which is celebrating its 95th anniversary on November 3, 2011.

The Call & Post was established in 1928 when the Cleveland Call and the Cleveland Post merged. The Cleveland Call and Cleveland Post were newspapers that had been independently serving Cleveland's African American community since 1920. The Call & Post was a struggling publication the first several years it was in circulation. However, in 1932, when Baltimore's William Otis Walker came to manage the paper, the Call & Post began to grow and prosper. The Call & Post increased from four pages to twelve and its circulation more than tripled. Mr. Walker partnered with P–W Publishing Co. and ran the paper until the early 1980s. Under Mr. Walker's leadership, the Call & Post became one of the best African American newspapers in the country. In 1959, the Call & Post extended its circulation and began running editions for the cities of Columbus and Cincinnati as well as a state-wide edition.

Don King bought the Call & Post in 1998 and remains the paper's owner and publisher. The publication still runs a statewide edition. The weekly edition of the Call & Post features local news in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati and includes the Call & Post 2nd edition, an arts and entertainment tabloid. The paper has received recognition from the National Newspaper Publishers Association and the Press Club of Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the 95th anniversary of one of the nation's most prominent African American newspapers, the Call & Post.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is $14,939,232,547,985.08.

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 $4,300,806,801,691.28 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF MR. JOHN KILEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Mr. John Kiley, the co-director of the Freedom House, which was the precursor to Cleveland's Ed Keating Center.

John was dedicated to serving the country and the public starting at a young age. He served with the U.S. Air Force for twenty years, including three tours in Vietnam, before retiring. He was a member of the 1041st Security Police Squadron at Hawaii's Schofield Barracks. Later, John worked as a counselor at Cleveland's Stella Marris and the Ed Keating Center. He was also the co-director of Cleveland's Freedom House.

The Ed Keating Center was founded in 1998 by Jack Mulhall and Phyllis Eisele-Curran, who had previously founded Freedom House in 1991. It is a non-profit organization and sober living facility for those addicted to drugs and alcohol that serves adults regardless of their financial well-being. The Ed Keating Center offers a six month in-house rehab program, a three-quarter house program and a work release program for its patients.

I offer my condolences to John's wife Susan; daughters Kerry, Shannon (deceased), Angela and Merry; siblings, Susan and Terry; and all of his nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. John Kiley. His legacy will live on through the work of Cleveland's Ed Keating Center.

LEO P. VERGNETTI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Leo P. Vergnetti, the 2011 honoree at the American Cancer Society Ball of Hope in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on October 28, 2011. Mr. Vergnetti has been a dedicated supporter of the American Cancer Society for decades. This is a charity that has been very close to his heart since his beloved wife, Carol, passed away due to cancer in 1984. Mr. Vergnetti turned this tragic event in his life into a reason to champion cancer research. His efforts have raised significant funds to support cancer services in his home region of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Vergnetti's work with children has enabled many suffering with cancer to attend Camp Can-Do. This is a camp for children who are receiving cancer treatment. The ability to attend this camp and interact with other children going through the same trials and tribulations is empowering. Mr. Vergnetti has raised money to give several children this life-affirming experience and escape the stress of the disease that they are fighting.

Not only is Mr. Vergnetti a former chairman of the American Cancer Society's Board of Ambassadors, but he is also the founder. At a time when 1.4 million new cancer cases are expected in this country during the next year, having a group of community leaders gathering ideas for advancing the ACS's mission is pivotal.

As a philanthropist, Mr. Vergnetti has been a pivotal part of securing funding for many other charities including the Wyoming Children's Association, the Scranton Relay for Life Committee, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that the American Cancer Society honors a man who has donated so much of his time and effort to such a worthy cause. I am certain that his hard work and dedication will not end here. Fighting for those enduring cancer and furthering research to help find a cure are close to Leo Vergnetti's heart, and it is my pleasure to acknowledge all of his efforts here today.

160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 160th anniversary of the University of the District of Columbia, the only public institution of higher education in our nation's capital.

The University of the District of Columbia, then known as the Colored Girls School, was founded by Myrtilla Miner on December 4, 1851. Over the next 160 years, the single-room schoolhouse flourished into an exceptional institution offering academic programs to generations of students. The University, as we know it today, was formally established by a 1974 Act of Congress, and became a land-grant institution in 1862. Today, it is the only completely urban land-grant institution in the country.

The University serves over 5,300 students and offers more than eighty undergraduate and graduate programs across six colleges. The University's new community college, established under the leadership of University President Dr. Allen Sessoms, is thriving and provides its students with associate, certificate, and workforce development programs in high-demand fields.

Continuing its legacy of excellence in teacher education, which began with the Miner and Wilson Normal Schools more than a hundred years ago, the University recently founded the National Center for Urban Education, which will prepare teachers for the unique demands of our nation's urban schools.

Fulfilling its land-grant mission, the University is pursuing an aggressive research agenda in dozens of areas, including renewable energy, urban sustainability, cancer biology, applied statistics, and computer science.

The David A. Clarke School of Law, which joined the University in 1996, is the second most diverse law school in the country. Its unique emphasis on clinical education led Attorney General Eric Holder to declare its clinical programs a model for other law schools. This year, law students will provide over 85,000 hours of pro bono legal assistance to our community.

To support its recent growth, the University is undergoing a massive physical transformation, with three major satellite campuses and a community college that opened in the past two years, upgrades to the main Van Ness campus, and a new state-of-the-art student center, which we will soon break ground on.

Although the University was born out of the humble beginnings of a one-room school house, it has been dedicated to excellence in education and opportunities for all of its 160-year history. I am proud of the University and ask the House to join me in commending the University community on its accomplishments over the last 160 years.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MONICA'S CHURCH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. Monica's Catholic Church in San Francisco's Richmond District on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Robert McElroy and Fr. John Greene, pastor of St. Monica's Church and chaplain to the San Francisco Fire Department.

The Richmond District of San Francisco had expanded after the 1906 earthquake and its Catholic residents needed a congregation. St. Monica's Parish was founded in January 1911 and the church was built in 1918 funded by donations of the parishioners. From its humble beginnings, when the Richmond District was made up of mostly Irish-American and Italian-American residents, the parish has become a spiritual home to an ethnically and culturally diverse population.

St. Monica's School was founded in 1919 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. It is a co-ed Catholic elementary school that welcomes students from all faiths and cultural backgrounds and well represents the cultural diversity of its neighborhood.

It was my privilege to attend the June 2011 funeral Mass for fallen firefighters Anthony Valerio and Vincent Perez officiated by Fr. John Greene. Each year a Mass is held to commemorate the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center. Many of these masses are held at St. Monica's because it is a favorite church of San Francisco firefighters for weddings as well as funerals.

All San Franciscans are grateful for Fr. Greene's leadership and his dedication to our first responders. The individuals and families in Fr. Greene's parish have been blessed with a Pastor who has strengthened their church and school, built community and inspired their love for service and their love of God.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EMPOWERING AND STRENGTHENING OHIO'S PEOPLE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP), an organization dedicated to providing assistance to homeowners who are facing foreclosure, or struggling to make their monthly mortgage payments due to a predatory lending or hardship situation.

The East Side Organizing Project was founded by Inez Killingsworth in 1993 as a means to address the unsafe conditions of her Union-Miles neighborhood. During the early 1990s, ESOP, under Ms. Killingsworth's leadership, began to rally against the lack of credit available to African Americans in the community. When predatory lending in the area increased and more and more community members were facing mortgage payments they could no longer afford, ESOP turned its focus to addressing this growing problem. ESOP became a statewide venture in 2008, when it opened 10 offices throughout the state of Ohio. The organization was then renamed Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People. ESOP acts as a foreclosure counseling agency. Through tactics varying from protesting banks to negotiating agreements between lenders and borrowers to taking financial executives on tours of the collapsing neighborhoods that are in peril due to predatory lending, ESOP has helped thousands of families in Ohio avoid losing their homes. In 2010, ESOP helped save more than 3,200 homes from foreclosure.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People and its advocacy work on behalf of Ohio homeowners.

RECOGNIZING GENE DEWS

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary individual—Gene Dews—who has dedicated much of his lifetime to cultivating student athletes in the state of Alabama.

Dews is a Fort Gaines, Georgia, native and a graduate of Clay County High School. He also earned degrees from Georgia Southwestern College and Troy State University.

Dews began his career in coaching as an assistant baseball coach at Troy State University in Troy, Alabama. He held that position for 13 years before becoming the head baseball coach at Wallace Community College in Dothan, Alabama in 1990. The next year Dews also became the athletic director at Wallace, a position he held until his recent retirement.

In 2001, Dews switched from the baseball diamond to the softball field and established one of the top community college softball programs in the nation. During his tenure, Wallace Community College won nine consecutive Southern Division championships, three state championships—which included trips to the Junior College World Series. Under Dews' leadership of Wallace's softball team, there were 15 All-Americans for player performance and nine selected as Academic All-Americans.

In 2008, Coach Dews was inducted into the Wiregrass Sports Hall of Fame—an acknowledgment of his significant and successful career. I applaud Dews for his dedication to student athletes and his involvement with college athletics for 35 years.

I wish Coach Dews the best in his retirement as he spends more time with his wife, Mary Ann, their children and grandchildren—and continued involvement with his church as a Deacon at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Headland, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Gene Dews. I am grateful for his service, and proudly recognize his contribution to the betterment of student athletes, and others, in the great state of Alabama.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SHERIFF JIM LOWMAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life of retired Escambia County Sheriff Jim Lowman. Sheriff Lowman was an esteemed leader in Northwest Florida, and I am proud to honor his lifetime of dedication and service.

Sheriff Lowman was a respected and vital member of the Northwest Florida community. He served as dean at Woodham High School in Pensacola, Florida, before working as a counselor at the Juvenile Center. Although Sheriff Lowman did not have any prior experience serving in public office, he possessed a vast deal of first-hand knowledge of local law enforcement through his work as a juvenile counselor. In 1992, Sheriff Lowman decided to run for Escambia County Sherriff, and his highly successful campaign reflected his ability to work closely with the citizens of Escambia County to improve the local community. He was elected Sheriff and served in that capacity from 1993–2000.

When Sheriff Lowman's term began in January 1993, he undertook a thorough assessment of the department and concluded that the department was understaffed. In order to facilitate the recruitment of new deputies, Sheriff Lowman encouraged the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners to enroll in the Public Hiring Supply Program. The Commission agreed and during Sheriff Lowman's tenure the force was increased by nearly 60 percent.

Under Sheriff Lowman's direction, the Escambia County Sheriff's Department also undertook important measures to tackle alcohol and drug abuse. They forged a close working relationship with the Community Drug and Alcohol Program. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department identified key areas of drug trafficking and worked with the managers of these properties to develop a security plan. Gatekeepers, often off-duty Sheriff's deputies, patrolled the area to ensure that outside drug traffickers could not set up distribution points within housing developments.

Sheriff Lowman also oversaw a $2 million expansion of the County Jail. This expansion improved county facilities and helped to lessen crowding in the jail. Despite overseeing substantial improvements, Sheriff Lowman was able to run his department in a fiscally responsible manner, and in his final year he returned nearly $900,000 in unused funds back to the County.

While Sheriff Lowman was an invaluable member of the Northwest Florida community, and many will remember him for his tireless effort combating crime and improving the lives of Escambia County's citizens, he was first and foremost a family man. He was a loving and dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Sue, their four children—Jamie, Jennifer Sue, Lesley, and Scott—and their grandchildren, Gavin and Jay Scott.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and service of Sheriff Jim Lowman. A committed community leader and loving family

man—he will be missed by many, but his memory will live on through the timeless legacy he left. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our thoughts and prayers to the entire Lowman family.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL JOSE CHARLES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Dr. Michael Jose Charles for his many accomplishments in the health care field for the residents in my district of Brooklyn, New York.

Michael Jose Charles was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti where he attended Father Andre's college Canado Haitian and College Classiques D'Haiti. Following an excellent high school career, Michael's outstanding scholastic achievement earned him entry into the school of Medicine at North East University Tampico, Tamps, Mexico where he graduated at the top of his class. While in Mexico, Dr. Charles served as General Practitioner, Counselor and Advisor, while performing various preventative medicine functions as a Public Health Agent at the General Hospital at Tampico.

In 1986, Dr. Charles migrated to New York and completed his Postgraduate studies at Columbia University. He also completed a residency program in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Gastroenterology at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. Dr. Charles is also Board Certified as an Internist and Gastroenterologist.

Dr. Charles' professional accomplishments are notable. He served as an attending physician in the Department of Health and Emergency Medical at Ryker's Island, Kings County Hospital, VA Brooklyn, SUNY Downstate, Brookdale Hospital and Paul Cooper Drug Rehabilitation Program. Currently, Dr. Charles serves as attending physician and program director at Brookdale Hospital, while maintaining a thriving private practice. He also volunteers on several medical missions venturing to Haiti, Guyana and the Dominican Republic.

From a physician's perspective Dr. Charles notes that injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane form of discrimination. As a person, he recognizes that ethnicity and social class often determine these disparities. With this knowledge in mind, he goes out of his way to show compassion and concern for humanity, especially to the underprivileged, and he has dedicated his life to provide service to those needy people.

Dr. Charles is humbled by his success and gives credit to his mother. Most important, he thanks his wife of over twenty-five years and his immediate family for their undying love and support. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Charles for his accomplishments in the area of health care and his service to Brooklyn and New York.

IN COMMEMORATION OF MR. JOHN KEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. John Key, a resident of Long Branch, New Jersey. Mr. Key was an active member of the Asbury Park, New Jersey community and passed away at the age of 37 during a tragic accident on the Garden State Parkway in New Jersey. His positive spirit and inspirational leadership as a football coach and educator are undoubtedly worthy of this body's recognition.

John Key dedicated his life to the development of his students on and off the football field. A star running back and linebacker at Ocean Township High School from 1988 to 1991, Mr. Key conveyed his knowledge and love for football to his students. As early as 1997, Mr. Key accepted an Assistant football Coach at Ocean Township High School. He continued to accept various coaching positions, which included a running back coaching positions at the University of Connecticut. He eventually led this team to the County Fair Championship in 2004. Mr. Key served as Assistant Head Coach of the Monmouth Regional High School Track team before accepting his current position with the Asbury Park High School football team as Assistant Coach. Throughout his career, Mr. Key brilliantly managed day-to-day operations for various football teams, planned and organized football practices and games and supervised various offseason strength and conditioning programs. John Key is a proud alumnus of the University of Delaware and also served as a teacher with the Asbury Park School District since September 2000. He recently earned a principal certificate and admirably began to pave a bright and successful future.

Members of the Asbury Park School District remember John Key as a tenacious and altruistic role model who continued to believe in himself and the student athletes he mentored. Colleagues, friends and loved ones remembered him as an outstanding and positive individual with a contagious smile and kind spirit. He is survived by his parents and two children. Mr. Key's outstanding rapport with students was evident through his actions and has undoubtedly touched the lives of countless individuals throughout Monmouth County.

Mr. Speaker, John Key dedicated his life to mentoring and coaching students and athletes. His legacy has served as an inspiration to us all and he will truly be missed.

MALAWI: HOSTING A WAR CRIMINAL WITH IMPUNITY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record a copy of a letter I sent to all of the Board Members of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) urging that Malawi immediately cease to be an MCC recipient in light of the government's decision to host Sudanese President Omar al-Bahsir—an internationally indicted war criminal. I also submit two news stories about the visit.

I take no comfort in the fact that on July 26, MCC placed a hold on Malawi's compact activities "due to concerns about the government's commitment to good governance, rule of law, and human rights." This decision was made prior to Bashir's visit. If anything, Malawi's recent red carpet welcome of Bashir is further evidence that they are ill-suited to receive MCC funding, especially in the face of economic challenges here at home.

An October 20 BBC story reported that, "Mr Bashir was welcomed by a military guard of honor when he arrived in the capital, Lilongwe, for a trade summit last weekend. . . ." This is unconscionable—Bashir has blood on his hands from the genocide in Darfur as well as the unfolding atrocities in the Nuba Mountains.

And yet, the administration has been publicly silent. If Malawi's actions don't prompt a response, I don't know what does.

Martin Luther King famously said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." The long-suffering people of Sudan will not soon forget our silence.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 18, 2011.

Hon. RON KIRK,
U.S. Trade Representative,
Washington DC.

DEAR MR. KIRK: I write today to share with you the enclosed letter I sent to President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and Mr. Yohannes last week. I am deeply concerned that the Malawi government welcomed Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on Friday, essentially rolling out the red carpet for this internationally indicted war criminal. I believe this should be of concern to you, too.

As I stated in my letter, Malawi should be dropped immediately from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compact. The MCC compact with Malawi should not just be put on an operational hold but should be cancelled indefinitely. The very thought of U.S. taxpayers providing money to a country that has opened its doors to a wanted war criminal should be reason enough to cancel both MCC and American foreign aid funding altogether for Malawi.

As you know, Bashir is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Sudanese people. If funding for Malawi is not cancelled, the MCC will be complicit in aiding a country that has supported a genocidal government and would henceforth lack legitimacy and should be completely shutdown. The American people should expect nothing less.

Bashir's warm welcome by the Malawian government is a clear demonstration of its lack of commitment to good governance—a core principle of MCC partnerships. Every time a country allows Bashir to enter, it provides this war criminal with credibility. The longer he is in office, the more people will be killed.

Bashir is strikingly similar to Slobodan Milosevic, except that this tragedy is not taking place in Europe but rather among the poorest of the poor in Africa. As you may know, I was one of only 16 Republicans to vote against a 1999 resolution to try to cease military operations in Yugoslavia after President Clinton had intervened to end the genocide—similar to that of what is taking place in Sudan today.

I have enclosed several new photos that I received from a contact living in the Nuba Mountains. He continues to document the destruction and terror inflicted upon innocent people on a daily basis by Bashir's

troops. I have only sent four out of the hundreds of pictures he has taken because many of them are too graphic to be shared.

During these difficult economic times, we should not allow scarce American tax dollars to support countries that empower war criminals like Bashir. I look forward to your response and hope you will use this opportunity to demonstrate that the U.S. will stand up to those countries that help perpetuate Bashir's rule.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

[From the BBC News Africa, Oct. 14, 2011]

OMAR AL-BASHIR ARREST REQUEST REJECTED BY MALAWI

Malawi has rejected calls to arrest visiting Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted for war crimes in Darfur.

Mr. Bashir was welcomed by a military guard of honour when he arrived in the capital, Lilongwe, for a trade summit.

Malawi's Information Minister Patricia Kaliati told the BBC it was not her government's ''business'' to arrest him.

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Mr. Bashir in 2008.

The European Union and human rights groups have urged Malawi, which is a signatory to the ICC, to arrest Mr. Bashir.

''Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes must not go unpunished and their prosecution must be ensured by measures at both domestic and international level,'' a spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said.

Ms. Kaliati said Malawi could not detain Mr. Bashir as he was attending a heads of state summit of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), a regional trade bloc.

''He's coming for business and we don't have any business to do with the arrest of President Omar,'' she told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

''We are very honoured to have these heads of state.''

STAUNCH ICC CRITIC

The BBC's Joel Nkhoma in Liliongwe says Malawi's refusal to arrest Mr. Bashir is not surprising because President Bingu wa Mutharika has become a staunch critic of the ICC.

He accuses it of unfairly targeting African leaders and believes that Africa should set up its own court to try alleged war criminals, our reporter says.

Mr. Bashir was the first head of state to be indicted by the ICC, which accused him of genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

Mr. Bashir denies the allegation, saying the ICC is controlled by Western powers hostile to Sudan.

Several other African countries have also refused to arrest Mr. Bashir and the African Union has urged the UN to suspend the arrest warrant.

Some 2.7 million people have fled their homes since the conflict began in Darfur, and the UN says about 300,000 have died—mostly from disease.

Sudan's government says the conflict has killed about 12,000 people and the number of dead has been exaggerated for political reasons.

[From Thomson Reuters, Oct. 13, 2011]

MALAWI TO ALLOW SUDAN'S BASHIR IN FOR SUMMIT

(By Mabvuto Banda)

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters).—Malawi will allow Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir into the country for a regional trade summit starting on Friday and has no plans to arrest him under an International Criminal Court warrant, a senior government official said on Thursday.

''Malawi believes in brotherly coexistence between COMESA states and beyond so we will not arrest him. He is a free person in Malawi,'' Deputy Foreign Minister Kondwani Nankhumwa told Reuters.

The decision will likely lead to the further diplomatic isolation of Malawi's President Bingu wa Mutharika, who is locked in diplomatic row with major aid donor Britain and earned international condemnation after government forces killed 20 protesters at anti-government rallies in July.

COMESA is the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

The ICC issued an arrest warrant last year for Bashir on charges of orchestrating genocide in the Darfur region, where as many as 300,000 people have died since 2003.

The European Union in August expressed concern about a second visit to Chad by Bashir, saying he should have been arrested. Bashir has also gone to countries including Kenya, Djibouti and China since warrants have been issued.

The ICC earlier issued a warrant in March 2009 for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Bashir has dismissed the charges by the ICC, the world's first permanent court for prosecuting war crimes, as part of a Western conspiracy.

The influential international right group, Human Rights Watch, said Malawi was bound by its international obligations to arrest Bashir.

''Malawi should instead uphold its commitment to justice for grave crimes by cooperating with the ICC, as civil society across Africa has called on their leaders to do,'' said Elise Keppler, senior counsel with the group.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize another successful Great California ShakeOut that occurred on October 20, 2011.

On 10:20 am, over 8.6 million Californians took part in a Drop, Cover, and Hold On earthquake drill. This was an increase from the 7.9 million people who participated in last years' drill.

The Great California ShakeOut occurs on the third Thursday of October each year. Schools, businesses, tribes, government officials, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations, and more participated in this year's Great California ShakeOut. The purpose of the Great California ShakeOut is to raise earthquake preparedness among all stakeholders in the State.

As the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I applaud my home State of California for taking earthquake preparedness seriously.

California is no stranger to having earthquakes. Earthquake preparedness in California has saved countless lives and money.

Having effective emergency plans in place for earthquakes and other disasters has proven to save lives. I will continue to fight to ensure that our communities in California and across the country have the resources available to handle emergency situations.

Mr. Speaker, again I congratulate Californians on another successful Great California ShakeOut. While the Great California ShakeOut occurs once a year, it serves as a reminder to us all that emergency planning needs to be a year-round effort.

A TRIBUTE TO RUTH CHERRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Ruth Cherry for her tremendous impact on the lives of Brooklyn youth.

Ruth Cherry has made a lifelong commitment to educating young children and their families by providing them with opportunities that encompass the most innovative learning strategies and essential services to spark a new-range of possibilities in their lives.

Born in ''Snakebite'' and raised in Ahoskie, North Carolina, Ruth earned her BA degree in Psychology at North Carolina Central University and her Masters degree in Education from Bank Street College of Education in New York.

In 1965 the Federal Government declared a ''War on Poverty'' by creating Head Start, a national preschool program for underserved young children and their families. It was then that Ruth Cherry would be able to hone her skills and solidify her commitment to children and families when in 1966 the Bedford Stuyvesant community, under the sponsorship of a community based organization named Youth-In-Action, created the Bedford Stuyvesant Head Start—now known as Bedford Stuyvesant Early Childhood Development Center, Inc.

Ruth Cherry began her career in education as a Group Teacher and as Bed Stuy Head Start's first official employee. Through devotion and hard work Ruth was able to diligently move up the ladder. Ruth went from her first role as Group Teacher to her current role as Executive Director, with many positions in between.

During Ruth Cherry's 40-year tenure and counting at Bed Stuy Head Start she has been the forerunner of the development, coordination and implementation of programs that meet the needs of the children and families of Bedford Stuyvesant. Ruth has utilized her expertise as an ''award-winning'' grant writer to acquire millions of dollars to supplement existing, and implement additional high-quality services to children and families. One such grant allowed Bed Stuy Head Start to implement a New York State Even Start Family Literacy Program which provided adults who were deemed most in need with an opportunity to participate in adult literacy programs that led to a GED.

After the September 11th crisis, Ruth wrote a grant that created a program to support and provide mental health services to Bed Stuy Head Start families affected by the tragedy.

Her latest endeavors include the development and coordination of one of the first Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs in the Greater New York area and the Bed Stuy Head Start Extended Day Program.

RECOGNIZING SUPERIOR CHEVROLET

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, we need businesses to set up shop in our community to provide the goods and services that are needed in order for our citizens to survive and thrive on a day to day basis; and

Whereas, in 1969, Mr. Lamar Ferrell started Lamar Ferrell Chevrolet here in Decatur, Georgia, to service the citizens of DeKalb County, Georgia, and nearby communities; and

Whereas, when Mr. Ferrell passed away, the new owner Mr. Buddy Hyatt purchased the business and it has been family owned ever since under the name of Superior Chevrolet; and

Whereas, Superior Chevrolet continues to be a resource for citizens in DeKalb County and beyond with excellent service, providing employment opportunities and providing a product that "keeps America moving" contributing to the local and national economy; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia is officially honoring, recognizing and congratulating Superior Chevrolet on their forty-second (42) anniversary as a business anchor in our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim October 21, 2011, as Superior Chevrolet Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 21st day of October, 2011.

HONORING CONNIE DREGA FOR HER INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to Connie Drega as she is honored by the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee with one of their 2011 Women's Leadership Awards. Connie is the quintessential volunteer and has devoted countless hours to improving the quality of life in her hometown of Middlefield, Connecticut.

Each year, in the spirit of the late Governor Ella Grasso, the Democratic State Central Committee selects ten women whose extraordinary leadership and contributions have made a difference in their communities. The annual Women's Leadership Awards celebrate the innumerable ways in which women, through their work in the political arena, have helped to shape our communities.

Connie has been a member of the Middlefield Democratic Town Committee for more than thirty years and has been involved with the local Democratic Party for even longer. She is a past Treasurer and is always involved in their fundraising efforts. Be it the annual Baked Potato Booth at the Durham Fair, a spaghetti supper, or organizing meetings and other opportunities for the public to discuss their issues with local leaders, Connie can always be found in the background, quietly ensuring that everything is in order and running smoothly.

At 84-years young, Connie is involved in almost every facet of the Committee's activities. Every month, she calls through the membership to remind them of meetings and she has served on the nominating committee, assisting in identifying and recruiting folks to run for local office. She herself served on the local Board of Finance for several years and today acts as the Deputy Registrar, another volunteer effort where she helps to ensure elections and referendums are conducted with the highest of integrity.

In addition to her work on the Town Committee, Connie is also very involved in her church, St. Colman's, as well as at the Middlefield Senior Center. She is also a member of the Middlefield Community Services Council, a group of local residents whose mission is to reach out and support those members of the community who are facing difficult circumstances. In fact, Connie was honored by the Durham-Middlefield Exchange Club with their Golden Deeds Award which recognizes "exceptional contributions by a resident to the betterment of our communities."

Connie Drega reflects the very spirit in which the Women's Leadership Award are given and I am proud to join her family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating her as she receives this very special and well-deserved recognition.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE MILLER

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Dr. George Miller, who has announced his intention to retire later this year from his position as the Director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Dr. Miller has served his country honorably for nearly forty years as a scientist and leader within the nuclear security labs, and he deserves our thanks and praise for a job very well done.

Throughout his long and varied career, Dr. Miller's work has made our nation more secure in ways that are difficult to fully encapsulate. He has been a critical force in maintaining and reinvigorating the nation's nuclear deterrent, has applied his unmatched scientific skills and personal energy to develop innovative technologies to support U.S. warfighters, and has been at the forefront of efforts to reduce and respond to the threats of terrorism, cyber attacks, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

During his nearly 40 years of service to the nation at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Dr. Miller's greatest contributions came in his efforts to ensure the U.S. nuclear arsenal is safe, secure, and reliable. Early on in his career, Dr. Miller was a leader in the design of the B83 gravity bomb, which was a tour-de-force in nuclear weapons engineering. The requirements placed by the military on the B83 design were incredibly demanding: the bomb had to hold a variety of targets at risk, be capable of being released from low-flying aircraft to avoid air defenses, and must survive impacts with any sort of irregular ground feature or structure at speeds up to 75 miles per hour.

Dr. Miller also led development of the W84 nuclear warhead, which was deployed on an Air Force ground-launched cruise missile during the 1980s. Intended for NATO deployment, the W84 included many advanced safety and security features that are still considered "best practices" in the nuclear weapons arena. These features include insensitive high explosives that will not detonate in an accident, a fire-resistant nuclear "pit" that mitigate the dispersal of radioactive fissile materials in the event of a fire, and advanced surety features to prevent unauthorized use of the weapon. Even today, the W84 is one of the safest and most secure nuclear warheads ever made. The deployment of the W84 on its ground-launched cruise missile helped foster the Soviet Union's willingness to sign the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which dramatically lowered the number of—and threat from—nuclear warheads in Europe.

During his career, Dr. Miller initiated several programs to better understand nuclear weapon system performance at a more fundamental level. Motivated by intimate knowledge of nuclear weapon design issues gained through his experience as a design physicist for 16 nuclear explosive tests at the Nevada Test Site, Dr. Miller pioneered complementary above ground non-nuclear experiments to gain deeper insights into weapons physics phenomena.

Driving for greater scientific understanding of the physics underpinning the nuclear deterrent, Dr. Miller shepherded initiatives probing weapons physics using high powered lasers. By challenging the Lab's workforce to take advantage of laser capabilities coupled with advanced diagnostic techniques, he developed a new and highly stimulating training ground for weapons designers. Dr. Miller's innovation laid the groundwork for the highly successful program of high energy density physics experiments that continue to provide key data and understanding for the annual assessment and certification of the nuclear stockpile. Almost two decades after the first laser-driven weapons physics experiments, experiments on the National Ignition Facility (NIF) provided the final data needed to resolve "energy balance," a problem originally identified during the era of nuclear explosive testing that had remained an anomaly to weapons physicists for nearly 40 years.

As one of the architects of the Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship Program (SSP), Dr. Miller has provided national leadership and critical personal insight into defining and structuring a cohesive and multi-decadal national program to maintain the nuclear deterrent without nuclear testing. SSP brings together advances in experimental capabilities like NIF with tremendous computational capabilities to provide better understanding of the nation's nuclear stockpile. Since the 1990s, SSP has provided the foundation needed to ensure high confidence in the safety, security, and reliability of our nuclear weapons in the absence of integrated nuclear explosive testing. Dr. Miller's proven personal commitment to fundamental science in the service of national security has allowed the nation to maintain the deterrent without nuclear testing and enabled

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to meet an expanding range of national security challenges. The tools and highly skilled workforce enabled by SSP allows the Lab to support efforts to counter terrorism and nuclear proliferation, conduct in-depth analysis of foreign nuclear weapons programs, manage and respond to nuclear accidents and events, and contribute to the broader defense, energy, and health arenas.

In 2000, Dr. Miller was put in charge of the NIF construction project, which at that point was well behind schedule and over budget. Dr. Miller assembled a new management team with a new project execution plan, and put NIF on track for completion in 2009. As a result of his leadership, this NIF earned a project of the year award from the prestigious Project Management Institute, continues to meet its scientific and operational milestones, is now performing crucial experiments for SSP, and is enabling the U.S. to maintain global leadership in inertial confinement fusion research.

The nation is incredibly fortunate to have had Dr. George Miller's leadership, focus, and dedication to applying state-of-the-art science and technology to the nuclear security challenges of our time. His contributions will ensure the nation's next generation of nuclear scientists and engineers—already hard at work in the Lab and programs he helped shape—are ready to meet the challenges of the future.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE HOLTZMAN FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GEORGIA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Holtzman for eighteen years of service to the Georgia Real Estate Commission.

A graduate of North Carolina State University, George is the Co-Owner and Broker of Coldwell Banker Holtzman in Hinesville, Georgia. George is also the President of the Holtzman Insurance Agency, Holtzman Real Estate Services, the Holtzman School of Real Estate, and All American Storage and U-Haul in Hinesville, Georgia. Previously, George has served as President of the Hinesville Area Board of Realtors and as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President of the Georgia Association of Realtors. George was later appointed by Governor Zell Miller to the Georgia Real Estate Commission, where he was elected Chairman.

In addition to his commitment to the Georgia Real Estate community, George has dedicated his life to helping others and serving the community. A United States Army Vietnam Purple Heart Recipient Veteran, George was presented the coveted United States Army's Patriotic Civilian Award for his continuous and unselfish support of the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield community. Additionally, George has served as a Military Liaison for the Hinesville Military Affairs Committee.

Throughout Mr. Holtzman's years of community involvement, he has served as the President of the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce, President of the Coastal Empire Association of the United States Army, President of the Bradwell Institute Band Boosters, President of a local Rotary Club, and was also appointed to the Coastal Bank Board of Directors. This list of achievements is just a small representation of Mr. Holtzman's community involvement.

I congratulate George on his many years of service. He has devoted his life and time to helping others and continues to make invaluable contributions to the Real Estate community and the state of Georgia. I wish him many more years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN EASTERN TURKEY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest condolences for the victims of the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that shook the eastern region of Turkey on Sunday and claimed the lives of nearly 300 people.

As I join my colleagues in Washington this week, my thoughts and prayers are with the families of Van who have lost loved ones, the children of Ercis who have lost the security of their homes, and the courageous rescue workers who have risked their lives searching for survivors in unsteady rubble.

While it is regrettable that moments of chaos and tragedy bring nations closer together, I see the outpouring of support by Turkey's neighbors and allies to be testament to the loyalty demonstrated by the Turkish people year after year. May the destruction of this earthquake serve not as a representation of tragedies past, but as a reminder of the assistance Turkey has provided her neighbors when they have faced similar calamity.

In my privileged capacity as a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I am proud to witness the deluge of disaster aid offered by countries near and far. It would bring me a great sense of relief to see that the victims of this natural disaster receive access to the aid offered by Turkey's neighbors.

In honor of Turkey's resilience and strength, I once again offer my most sincere sympathy and appreciation for the pain felt by the Turkish people.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 3080, THE U.S.-SOUTH KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3080, the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act.

The Korean Republic is our seventh largest trading partner, and this agreement will have a significant positive impact on our GDP as well as on job creation.

The current average tariff for U.S. exporters is more than four times the average tariff that our imports from Korea face—this agreement levels the playing field.

Despite some sectors' concerns with the agreement, the services sector—which comprises 93% of the jobs in my district—stands to benefit greatly, with increased market access and the creation of new jobs.

Nationwide, 80% of the U.S. workforce is employed in the services sector, with U.S. cross border exports of services to Korea totaling $12.6 billion in 2009, while imports were $6.4 billion, netting a U.S. services trade surplus of $6.2 billion.

The Korea FTA provides U.S. service firms with increased market access, investor protections and regulatory transparency, which is vital for job creation in my district and the broader U.S. economy, which is why I vote in favor of the agreement today.

PROTECT LIFE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I find it unbelievable that our colleagues across the aisle could make the comments that they are making about the Protect Life Act. H.R. 358 takes away no protections from women in this country. It does not take away any rights from women. It is not extreme.

In fact, 77 percent of the people in this country are opposed to taxpayer funding for abortions. H.R. 358 makes it absolutely certain that we are not going to use taxpayer money to pay for abortions, even under what has become known as ObamaCare. This bill is not outside the mainstream. As the poll I referenced indicates, it is well within the mainstream. It is our colleagues across the aisle who have fallen outside the mainstream. They represent 23 percent of the people in this country who want to see taxpayer funding for abortions. That is by definition outside the mainstream.

And talk about dilatory—the whole point of order is dilatory. It is an effort on their part to simply bring up issues that are irrelevant. And in many cases, the points made are not true.

Our friends across the aisle say we should be dealing with the jobs bill. Well, Madam Speaker, let me point out to our colleagues that not one of them who spoke, not one of them who gave 1-minute on the jobs bill, have cared to be cosponsors of the jobs bill. The jobs bill, which President Obama has been asking the Congress to pass, was defeated in the Senate.

It was introduced in the House by one Member, and he even placed a caveat on the bill indicating that it was introduced "by request." That means as a courtesy to the President. No other Member across the aisle chose to cosponsor that bill. If they were so eager to get that bill passed, Madam Speaker, you would think that they would become cosponsors of the bill.

We are doing a lot on our side of the aisle to create jobs. We are doing our best to reduce spending and to reduce rules and regulations: that will create jobs in this country.

New spending by the Federal Government won't create jobs. We know that from the stimulus bill that was passed in 2009.

And for my colleagues across the aisle who say that this is a misogynist bill, nobody has ever fought more for the rights of women than I have. However, 50 percent of the unborn babies that are being aborted are females. So the misogyny comes from those who promote the killing of unborn babies. That's where the misogyny comes in, Madam Speaker. It doesn't come in from our trying to protect taxpayers' money from being spent on killing unborn children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor on Friday, October 14.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 792, 793, and 800, and "no" on rollcalls 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, and 799.

WORLD FOOD DAY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of World Food Day, and recognize the vital impact of the food industry in the United States on the health and economic wellbeing of America's families.

From farm to fork, the food industry in the U.S. employs more than 15 million Americans.

The food industry is responsible for 1.4 million manufacturing jobs alone in the U.S.

With more than 6 billion people living around the world, the production of U.S. agriculture and food industries is critical to preventing hunger—both domestically and globally.

Through its support of federal nutrition programs like SNAP, school lunch, and TEFAP, the food industry serves as a responsible partner with government in helping to feed over 37 million Americans struggling with food security.

And with the changes of the past decade, consumers are seeing healthier food options at stores with clear labeling that provides families information to make the choices that are right for them.

On World Food Day, we should all be thankful to live in a nation with a safe, affordable, and reliable food supply.

I urge my colleagues to recognize those in the agricultural and food industry sectors who work to ensure the health and wellbeing of so many Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAVE OUR CLIMATE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Save Our Climate Act, a bill that will create a simple tax on carbon. A carbon tax is a straightforward way to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, spur development of alternative energy, slow climate change, and decrease our deficit.

The impacts of climate change become more severe with each year we fail to act. The ten warmest years on record have all occurred since 1990. Extreme weather events like droughts, floods, and violent storms are becoming more common as the planet gets hotter.

Our continued addiction to burning fossil fuels not only accelerates climate change it is also a drag on our economy. We need a policy that discourages the use of fossil fuels and promotes investment in efficiency and alternative energy sources. The simplest solution is a carbon tax.

My legislation imposes a tax on each ton of carbon dioxide contained in a fuel. The tax is imposed upstream, at the point of manufacture or import where it is easiest to administer. No new bureaucracy will be needed.

The tax increases every year at a predictable rate so that the market, including investors and individuals can adjust to the tax and plan for the future. Unlike a cap and trade system, a carbon tax does not require a complicated trading market, auctions, or an exchange to function and it is insulated from speculation and volatile swings in pricing.

A steadily rising carbon tax will provide the certainty American businesses need to make the long-term investments in new energy sources that will break our addiction to fossil fuels. The United States can be the leader in green energy. A carbon tax will help to unleash American innovation and create jobs. That is why economists across the ideological spectrum—from Arthur Laffer and Alan Blinder on the right, to Jeffrey Sachs and Joseph Stiglitz on the left—have endorsed the idea. Through border adjustments, my legislation will protect American manufacturers and ensure that imported goods from countries like China are not given an unfair advantage over American products.

At a time of deep budget cuts meant to reduce the deficit, a carbon tax can be part of the deficit solution. My legislation will dedicate $437 billion toward deficit reduction over 10 years. In addition, the Save Our Climate Act will protect families from increased energy prices. Revenue generated will be distributed back to individuals as a yearly dividend to all Americans. The average dividend in the first year of the bill would be $172 per person, rising to $761 in the fifth year and $1126 in the tenth year.

We have a moral obligation to act to prevent catastrophic climate change and preserve our planet for future generations. The Save Our Climate Act is a first step toward meeting that obligation and creating a sensible tax code that incentivizes innovation and rewards responsibility. I encourage all my colleagues to support it.

HONORING CITY OF SAN RAFAEL MAYOR AL BORO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my long-time friend and colleague, Mayor Al Boro, who is retiring after 40 years serving the City of San Rafael, CA. During the two decades that Al Boro has been the Mayor of the City, he has set the pace for promoting its economic development and the tone for working in partnership with residents, officials, staff, and agencies.

Mayor Boro's early career was spent as an executive at Pacific Telephone and Telegraph. He began his civic engagement with an appointment to the San Rafael Planning Commission in 1971 where he served until 1987, when he was elected to the City Council. In 1991, he was elected Mayor and immediately set to work on the "Vision for Downtown San Rafael" which helped to revitalize the core of the City so it could change with the times. Mr. Boro was a key leader in developing an expanded neighborhood center at Pickleweed Park in the heart of the Canal area and construction of a new public works building and the Parkside Children's Center. He could also be found enjoying the bocce court complex he helped create for families at Albert Park.

On matters affecting Mann County and the Bay Area, Al Boro has been a tireless worker with a keen grasp of regional issues. He has been a mainstay of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District; the Main County Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Cultural Commission; Central Mann Sanitation Agency; Mann County Fair Board, the Sonoma/Marin Area Rail Transit Agency; the Main County Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, and many others.

But more than the list of boards and commissions to his credit, Al Boro is a man of his community. He works long hours attending events, meeting with residents, visiting schools, and generally listening to and appreciating the people of San Rafael. He values the diversity of San Rafael and supports efforts to promote the growing Latino and Asian populations.

Mr. Speaker, I have appreciated my partnership with Mayor Boro, and, as the face of San Rafael, it is hard to imagine the City without him at its helm. I know he will continue to enjoy its offerings and will have more time to spend with his wife Pat, their four children, and their grandchildren. Please join me in wishing Al Boro well in his retirement.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3078, THE U.S.-COLOMBIA FREE TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT (CFTA)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3078, the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act.

I simply cannot vote for an agreement given the alarming level of anti-union violence in Colombia, which in 2010 had more union worker assassinations than the rest of the world combined. Despite the Labor Action Plan the Obama Administration negotiated with the Colombian government, implementation of the Action Plan remains insufficient.

Without more meaningful steps taken by the Colombian government to protect workers and

prosecute the perpetrators of anti-union violence, and to provide basic internationally-recognized worker rights, I cannot vote for the agreement before us today.

HONORING THE HONORABLE JUDGE RUSTY LADD

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the Honorable Judge Rusty Ladd, a great man, a tireless public servant, and an advocate for the homeless. Larry Brown ''Rusty'' Ladd passed away Friday, September 30, 2011, and he is missed by all of us who knew him. I was privileged to know Judge Ladd, and I know the legacy he leaves behind will not be soon forgotten by his family, friends or community.

Rusty was born in Breckenridge, Texas on August 8, 1952, as the oldest son of a cotton ginner. He graduated from Lubbock Christian College in 1975 with a degree in Biblical Studies and joined the police force in 1977. In 1988, he graduated from Texas Tech Law School and started his own practice as a defense attorney in Dallas. He then moved back to West Texas as a prosecutor in Amarillo and Plainview. In 1996 he continued his practice in Lubbock as Assistant and then Deputy District Attorney at the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office.

In 1999, Rusty assumed the judge's bench of the Lubbock County Court-at-Law No. 1. When taking the bench, he said, ''I'm a new judge, and in taking the bench, I'm going to be able to fulfill my oath to defend the laws of the state in an absolutely fair and impartial way.'' He was true to his word, serving fairly and impartially, compassionate when possible and firm when necessary.

Rusty showed kindness not only in the courtroom, but also on the streets of Lubbock. He opened his heart to the homeless in the Lubbock community, serving on the homelessness committee of the Lubbock City Council since 2010 and volunteering through Carpenter's Church. Rusty dedicated his time and effort to serving the poor and marginalized. ''The thing a homeless person misses the most is not food or shelter,'' Ladd said in a 2010 interview, ''it's a genuine relationship with somebody that's got a stable life going on.'' His Christ-like attitude toward the poor is inspiring, and I hope and pray we can continue the selfless acts that he carried out.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my sincere thanks to Judge Rusty Ladd, for leaving this world a better place than he found it. I am truly honored to recognize his accomplishments. He will certainly be missed, but he will never be forgotten by those who knew him and were touched by his life.

HONORING DENVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Denville Volunteer Fire Department located in Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 85th Anniversary.

At a meeting of the Denville Athletic Club on June 6, 1926, a committee was formed to investigate the terms under which a fire department for the Township of Denville could be formed, to research the type of fire fighting apparatus most suitable for use and, most importantly, the costs involved in the undertaking. At this same meeting, the first officers of the Denville Fire Department were elected.

Though the founding members of the fire department were initially met with some resistance by the governing body, the persistence of its dedicated volunteers paid off. After the township passed the ordinance establishing the official status of the department, many volunteers offered their garages as home for the first fire apparatus. On New Year's Day 1927, the final push was made to finish the structure that would be the department's first official home. After furnishing the building, complete with a siren, the first meeting was held on March 22, 1927.

Through dedicated fundraising and the support of their community, the Denville Fire Department managed to keep their facility up and running and to acquire the necessary tools to keep the community safe. In July 1935, the Denville Board of Education gave the department the Old School House property on Main Street. The building was demolished to make room for a fire house and remains of the structure supplied additional material for the department's new home.

Over the years, many changes came to the Denville Fire Department. In 1940, the department formed a first aid squad. In April of 1956, it was decided that an additional fire house was needed. Construction of the Union Hill Firehouse began in early 1957 and was completed by February. In 1963 the Denville Board of Education donated a piece of land to the Department for construction of an additional firehouse. This would become the location for the Valley View Firehouse. Groundwork on the structure began on May 8, 1963. The finishing touches were made in January and February of 1964.

By the 1970s, the department boasted a 100 plus membership with five fire engines in service at three firehouses. With their ever-growing group, new construction began on a new facility for the Main Street Fire Station in 1973. By the fall of 1974 their completed, present home was open. Continuing in their growth, the department established the Junior Fire Auxiliary in 1983.

Over the last 20 years, the fire department has continued to flourish. Recently they acquired a new engine and two new ambulances. The 2009 Smeal 1,000 gallon Engine replaced a 1989 ICME 750 gallon Engine. The two ambulances replaced the ambulances at Union Hill and Valley View Fire Houses. Every year, they answer approximately 500 fire and 1,000 first aid calls and assist surrounding departments as they respond to calls in neighboring communities. In the summers, they hold the annual Denville Firemen's Carnival which brings Denville and surrounding communities together for lots of food and fun.

The past and present members of the Denville Volunteer Fire Department have gone above and beyond their call of duty. From their dedication to the safety of their community, to raising funds to maintain each fire house, their unwavering and resilient efforts are truly commendable. With each hour of training with every call answered, firefighters give up their precious time to help and protect others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Denville Volunteer Fire Department as they celebrate 85 years of community service.

HIGHLIGHTING THE NATIONAL DEBT CRISIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the National Debt Crisis. We are in the midst of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Our deficit has ballooned to the highest sum in history, 14.8 trillion. Our nation's unemployment hovers at 9.1 percent and a record 46.2 million Americans live in poverty. This problem cannot be sustained without running the risk of destroying our Great Nation.

As I stand before you, I make a plea to our spiritual leaders throughout the United States to be heard and to speak out for the gridlock that exists here in Congress. It seems to me whether we're dealing with the Koran or the Bible or the Torah, one thing that is abundantly clear is that we have a moral obligation to take care of the vulnerable among us, especially during our current economic crisis. This great nation now has broken all records in terms of our middle class actually being shrunk as people are forced into poverty. Therefore, cutting funding to entitlement programs will exacerbate this problem. Let the churches, synagogues, mosques and the temples be open so people can express themselves. Our spiritual leaders could encourage people not just to pray but to become active. So whether you're a Protestant, Catholic, Jew, Gentile, Mormon or Muslim, this is a time when America needs you.

The Congress has an obligation as well. Let this Congress attempt to be more civil and recognize that we have a responsibility that goes beyond the election. We have a responsibility to the American people and our National Debt is a priority that we must address.

Since the 1970's Keynesian economics has been the guiding principle for both parties. It stated that you should spend when times are bad to stimulate the economy and balance the budget when times are good. Therefore, the Government must increase spending to fill the void left by the private sector in a Recession. However, the Republican Party has abandoned this principle of economics in favor of ''Reaganomics.'' The Republican Party has prioritized cutting taxes and decreasing spending. While this would make sense when the economy is strong, trying to balance the budget this way in a Recession is dangerous. The tax cuts will cost the Federal Government $65 billion for 2011 alone. They will continue to add to the debt, while the Government struggles to raise revenue. Without revenue the Government cannot fund vital social programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, among others.

Moreover, with low revenue the Government cannot pay its bills and its debts. As a result,

the Government has been forced to borrow from countries such as China and Japan, as well as the Social Security program and the United States Postal Service. Republicans have argued that Social Security is unsustainable and is contributing to the debt; however Social Security has run surpluses for decades. The Government has used these surpluses to fund their spending, including the high spending under President Reagan. We cannot continue borrowing from Social Security. Social Security was created to last, without contributing to the debt. The program cannot pay benefits if it does not have the resources to do so. Furthermore, Social Security cannot borrow; therefore it cannot increase the federal deficit. Hence, years of tax cuts and borrowing from Social Security have pushed the program near insolvency. Additionally, borrowing from the Post Office has caused it to go broke. Republicans have called for privatizing the Post Office because it is unsustainable and cannot be subsidized by the government. On the other hand, tax cuts have forced the Government to borrow from the Post Office to make up for lost revenue. This has resulted in the devastation of the U.S. Postal Service.

The biggest amount of spending goes to health programs like Medicare, which accounts for 15 percent of the GDP alone. That is the main reason Democrats supported the health care bill. The Health Care law was meant to bring health care costs down, but Republicans seek to repeal the law. Other developed nations have managed to keep their health related costs low on a single-payer government-backed health care system. We must control the soaring health care costs if we are to decrease spending and the national debt and repealing the health care law is not the way to do it. It is abundantly clear that Republicans only seek to benefit their base of insurance companies.

Tax expenditures should also be on the table when discussing how to cut spending. They include tax breaks on mortgage interest and employer-provided health insurance. Tax expenditures add hundreds of billions of dollars a year to our debt. They decrease the amount of taxes individuals and businesses pay, thereby decreasing the amount of revenue the Government takes in. Moreover, tax credits are also a form of spending, which ''fiscally conservative'' Republicans claim they want to cut. However in 2009, House Republicans introduced new housing subsidies that gave a $5,000 credit to Americans that reliance their homes and $15,000 in credits to those buying homes. These tax credits are a form of spending that Republicans do not have a problem with. If we are serious about cutting spending than we must look at these tax expenditures, which account for more than the total cost of all non-defense programs, excluding Social Security and Medicare. So when we consider cutting spending on programs that benefit the poor and elderly, we should also take a look at tax expenditures, which help the middle class and wealthy.

Democrats and Republicans alike should make a valiant effort to work together in other to save our beloved country. We must look at cutting spending on all programs and not excluding tax expenditures from the list. Moreover, we must increase taxes on the wealthy, so we can stop borrowing from Social Security and effectively bankrupting the program. In order to balance the budget and decrease the debt, the government must receive revenue. This revenue can only come from increasing taxes. Spending cuts alone will not help this country recover. In fact, sharp cuts can force us back into a recession and will stunt our economic recovery. Therefore the best option is to cut spending gradually, not rapidly like Republicans propose and to increase taxes. Most economists agree that this is the best method to improve our economy and to decrease our debt.

Democratic and Republican voters are in agreement on programs that should be cut and where spending should be increased. Democrats and Republicans support cuts for the highway system, air travel and railroad, medical research, subsidies to agricultural corporations with large farms and defense spending. However, both voters support spending increases for job training, energy conservation and renewable resources, elementary and secondary education, higher education and agricultural subsidies to small farmers. It seems like the electorate is much less polarized than the government.

Mr. Speaker, if Democratic and Republican voters can agree on where spending should be decreased and where it should be increased, than why can't we? At the end of day, we must work together to ensure America's prosperity and the well-being of our nation. This is the only way to get us out of the current economic crisis we are in.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY LOCATED IN BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florida Atlantic University (FAU) as it marks the 50th Anniversary of its establishment in 1961. FAU is Florida's fifth largest public university.

Through the last five decades, FAU has pursued a mission of delivering top-quality higher education, research, creative activities and civic engagement. Today FAU provides a national model of excellence in serving students across a very large geographical region through a well-developed distributed campus system.

From its humble beginning on an abandoned World War II-era United States Army airfield in Boca Raton, FAU has expanded to include campuses and sites in Davie, Fort Lauderdale, Dania Beach, Jupiter, Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce.

The university is currently serving a record-high student body of more than 29,000 individuals including the founding class of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, America's newest medical school.

FAU takes special pride in the fact that its student body ranks as the most racially, ethnically and culturally diverse among the 11 institutions in Florida's State University System. Forty-six percent of students classified as minority or international.

In the last 50 years the university has awarded degrees to more than 120,000 alumni. The University and the alumni is a strong engine of economic growth and FAU generates an estimated $2 billion annually in its six-city service region.

FAU's 10 distinguished colleges offer students the opportunity to pursue more than 170 degree programs on the undergraduate and graduate levels. The students are taught by a faculty of 1,500 skilled and dedicated men and women who possess expertise in their fields and a true passion for passing on their knowledge to the next generation of leaders. Areas in which FAU has earned national recognition include ocean engineering, marine science, business, accounting and public administration.

Long recognized as an outstanding teaching institution, FAU is now claiming a place among America's great research universities. FAU researchers are at work in a host of essential areas, ranging from discoveries in the life sciences to new engineering technologies.

In 2010, the United States Department of Energy awarded FAU's Center of Excellence in Ocean Technology the broader designation of the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center. Researchers at this interdisciplinary center are working to address our nation's energy needs through the development of technology to generate energy from Florida's strong offshore currents. FAU is ranked as a ''High Research Activity'' university by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

While FAU excels in the sciences, FAU is also a vibrant center of the arts showcasing faculty and student presentations of many kinds, including lectures, plays, concerts and exhibitions. The university also recognizes its role in the community by offering South Florida's retired citizens the opportunity to take a wide variety of interesting classes through the FAU Lifelong Learning Society which happens to be the largest and most successful program of its kind in the nation.

FAU's students, alumni, faculty, administrators and staff can take pride in all that their university has accomplished during its first 50 years as they look forward to even greater achievements in the next decades to follow. This institution is an asset of great value to all Americans and to all Floridians deserving recognition and commendation during their Semicentennial.

RECOGNIZING THE OBJECTIVES OF FINANCIAL AID DAY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the objectives of Financial Aid Day (FAD). FAD reserves the third Wednesday in October to honor the role financial aid professionals across the United States play in helping students realize their dream of attaining a college education.

Today, student aid is under attack, despite that the fact that millions of students rely on and benefit from federal student aid each year. In fact, the number of students applying for federal financial assistance increased to approximately 19.5 million in 2010–2011, up by nearly seven million students since 2006–

2007. From school years 1999–2000 to 2009–2010, the total amount of Title IV federal financial aid awarded to students jumped from $62.1 billion to an estimated $146.5 billion, an increase of 136 percent.

FAD recognizes that assisting citizens of all ages to attain a higher education puts aid administrators among the forefront of this nation's efforts to compete in the global economy and contribute to the common good. Without such dedicated administrators, an untold number of students from diverse financial backgrounds would not be able to continue their pursuit of higher education due to a lack of necessary information and counseling.

Mr. Speaker, a post-secondary education would be unachievable for many of our nation's students without federal student aid. As such, I welcome the opportunity to honor those who serve these students on a daily basis. I support the goals of Financial Aid Day and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize the important role played by financial aid professionals in helping students realize their college dreams.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HERO STREET MEMORIAL PARK

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our veterans and wish to focus in particular on a specific street in Silvis, Illinois. In the town of Silvis, Second Street holds so much history from World War II and the Korean War. On Saturday October 29, 2011 the people of Silvis will be celebrating the 40 Year Anniversary Celebration of Hero Street Memorial Park.

In honor of the brave soldiers who lived on this street and whose families have made the park their own; I introduced a resolution to designate the park on Hero Street as ''Hero Street Memorial Park'' earlier this year and I am pleased that we are able to honor these brave warfighters.

The brave men who fought in World War II and the Korean War from this little street were the sons of Mexican immigrants to the U.S. and volunteered their lives for their country. When America entered these wars, 78 residents of this street from 35 families helped defend our country and our allies.

Eight of these brave men died for our country. Their names are: Tony Pompa, Frank Sandoval, Joseph Sandoval, Willie Sandoval, Claro Soliz, Peter Masias, Joe Gomez, and Johnny Munos.

In honor of these brave men and their other fellow soldiers who fought by their sides the community renamed this street in May 1967. Four years later a memorial park was built on Second Street and in 2007 a monument was added.

My resolution recognizes the sacrifices that these brave soldiers made and what their families did to support our country during that difficult time. We cannot forget those that have gone before us and this resolution will ensure that we do not. This resolution would not cost anything, just the time we should spend in honor of our veterans and those brave men that gave their lives. On behalf of a grateful nation, we honor the 40th Anniversary of Hero Street Memorial Park. The service and sacrifice of all who served, and their families, must not be forgotten.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 3079, THE U.S.-PANAMA FREE TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT (PFTA)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3079, the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Promotion Implementation Act.

At House Democrats insistence, the Panama FTA was renegotiated to require Panama to comply with international labor standards and environmental agreements.

Additionally, at the urging of House Democrats, the Obama Administration continued negotiations with Panama and ultimately achieved completion of the U.S.-Panama Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA), ensuring necessary tax transparency and addressing concerns about Panama's status as a tax haven.

This agreement is expected to increase our current trade surplus with Panama, which was $5.7 billion in 2010, and level the playing field by eliminating Panama's import duties on U.S. goods.

This renegotiated agreement deserves our support, and that is why I vote in favor today.

NATIONAL FOOD DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to Food Day and the importance of addressing our hunger crisis in America.

Spearheaded by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Rep. ROSA DELAURO and Sen. TOM HARKIN, Food Day enlists anti-hunger advocates, physicians, authors, and elected officials to advocate for healthy, affordable food produced in a sustainable, humane way. I am honored to be a member of the Food Day Advisory Board.

While Food Day and its advocates focus on a number of important food-related issues, one that Congress has failed to fully understand is the crisis of hunger. In 2010, 14.5 percent of American households were food insecure, meaning they lacked the capacity to put enough food on their tables.

Several federal programs work in conjunction to prevent hunger. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) keeps 45 million people from going hungry. Over half of SNAP beneficiaries are children, and eight percent are over age 60. The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program provides food assistance to 9 million mothers and children under five years of age. These programs are needed now more than ever.

The Republican Budget, passed in the House with no Democratic support, would cut $127 billion from SNAP over the next decade, a 20 percent cut. The House Agriculture Appropriations bill, passed with no Democratic support, would also cut SNAP funding.

The 2011 Continuing Budget Resolution cut WIC by $504 million, and the 2012 Agriculture Appropriations bill would cut it by an additional $700 million, or roughly 10 percent.

These are numbers, but they affect real people. I recently received a dozens of messages on paper plates from the Ezra Multi-Service Center in Chicago. The plates answer the question: what would happen if SNAP benefits are cut?

One anonymous client said that if the program is cut it would be impossible for her to feed her four children.

Robert from Chicago said that he has lost everything. ''If my benefits were cut I wouldn't eat for a while.''

A third client said ''if my benefits were cut, I would not be able to eat or sleep. I would have to look in the garbage for food.''

In the wealthiest nation on earth, that is simply unacceptable.

I urge my colleagues who are members of the Select Committee on Deficit Reduction not to consider cuts to SNAP, WIC, or other nutrition programs that serve as a lifeline for families struggling to make ends meet. Instead we should look to raise revenues by increasing tax rates on individuals and corporations who can afford to contribute more.

As we work to rein in our deficit, we must ensure that no American is forced to go without food.

NATIONAL FOOD DAY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today is National Food Day—a full day devoted to all aspects of the American food system: farms, industry, grocers, schools, and most importantly people. One stated goal of Food Day is to ''expand access to food and alleviate hunger.'' Mr. Speaker, it's unconscionable that hunger continues to exist in America. Nearly 50 million Americans go hungry every year. Over 17 million—one third—of them are children. The sad truth is hunger is a reality in every community. There is not one part of America, not one Congressional district, that isn't touched by hunger.

In my own district, as in many others places in America, volunteers help to alleviate hunger. On Saturday, I joined children and their parents in gleaning apples. We picked fresh, healthy fruit from an orchard to be delivered to the local food bank. If not for these volunteers, the apples would go to waste. It's an inevitable part of farming—produce that isn't ripe or is missed in the initial harvest stays on the trees or in the fields—because going back for a second harvest is too costly.

At times volunteering is costly too. Transporting gleaned food to the very people who rely on it takes time and fuel. And we're finding that the transportation costs are becoming a barrier to delivering gleaned food, and this fresh produce is left to rot in the fields instead of helping to feed hungry Americans.

That is why Representative EMERSON and I introduced H.R. 3177, the Hunger Relief

Trucking Tax Credit Act. This bill would encourage and reward individuals and businesses who haul gleaned food from one location to another within the U.S. Many trucking companies and individuals pay for transportation of this food out of their own pockets. The Hunger Relief Trucking Tax Credit Act would create a 25 cent tax credit for each mile that food is transported for a charity by a donated truck and driver for hunger relief efforts. This legislation will support those who are already transporting food donations and entice more companies to do so. We must make every effort to bring food to those who rely on it to feed themselves and their families.

As we celebrate National Food Day, I urge my colleagues to join us by cosponsoring this important legislation.

COAL RESIDUALS REUSE AND MANAGEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2273) to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to facilitate recovery and beneficial use, and provide for the proper management and disposal, of materials generated by the combustion of coal and other fossil fuels.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, I rise today to state my opposition to H.R. 2273, the Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act. On October 14, 2011, I inadvertently cast a vote in support of final passage of this measure. However, I am adamantly opposed to this legislation and want the Congressional Record to reflect my true sentiments.

The EPA's proposed coal ash rule is a much needed response to an incident that occurred in 2008 in my home state of Tennessee. On December 22, 2008, a coal ash pond at the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Kingston power plant breached, spilling 1.2 billion gallons of coal ash and its contaminants—including arsenic, selenium, and mercury—into two rivers. The disaster moved homes off of their foundations, and the ongoing cleanup, which has only removed half of the coal ash that was spilled to date—is expected to cost about $1.2 billion.

The EPA coal ash rule would set standards in place to ensure that a horrific tragedy such as the Kingston spill never occurs again. However, H.R. 2273 would undercut the coal ash rule and create a dangerous plan consisting of nothing but "guidelines" for regulating coal ash—guidelines that do nothing to protect citizens throughout America from another Kingston spill. Despite the Kingston disaster and EPA's acknowledgement that wet ponds can pose as high as a 1-in-50 risk of cancer to nearby residents, this bill fails to take the obvious and necessary step of phasing out surface impoundments. Meaning if this legislation were adopted, it would do nothing to avert tragedies such as Kingston from occurring in the future.

Another reason I oppose the Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act is because it interrupts an EPA rulemaking process that has been ongoing for nearly three years and silences the concerns of the American people. Over the last three years, the EPA has held eight public hearings and received more than 455,000 public comments on its proposed coal ash rule—a precedential response to an EPA rulemaking. Congress should not be interfering and obstructing this critical public process.

In an effort to prevent the passage of H.R. 2273, I circulated a Dear Colleague letter that informed my colleagues of the legislation's immense shortcomings and failures to protect the American people. I also offered an amendment, which unfortunately was not made in order, but would have required the EPA Administrator to revise the disposal criteria upon which the bill relies to ensure that human health and the environment are protected from the risks posed by coal combustion residuals.

In some parts of the country people justify the status quo because they have not seen the full dangers of unregulated coal ash. In Tennessee we cannot ignore these consequences and cannot tolerate legislation that would usurp a beneficial rulemaking and replace it with legislation that fails to protect the American people. For these reasons, I oppose H.R. 2273 and would like the record to reflect my strong opposition.

HONORING BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Over 200,000 women and men in the United States are diagnosed with breast cancer each year, resulting in almost 40,000 deaths—a terrible and tragic reality for too many individuals, families, and communities all across the country.

To date, early screening has proved essential in successfully combating breast cancer. Mammograms are the key to ensuring the men and women who are plagued with this disease are able to catch it early and significantly increase the chances of surviving.

Breast cancer research has come so far, but we must continue the fight until all people, no matter their background, can live in a world free of the disease. Until we reach that day we must continue to encourage our friends, family members, and peers to undergo early screening for breast cancer.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, together with my bipartisan colleagues Reps. CHARLIE RANGEL, EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NITA LOWEY, JANICE SCHAKOWSKY, HOWARD BERMAN, GUS BILIRAKIS and ROBERT BRADY, I am introducing a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Rabbi Arthur Schneier, in recogniton of his pioneering role in promoting religious freedom and human rights throughout the world for close to half a century.

Born in Vienna, Austria, in 1930, Rabbi Schneier lived under Nazi occupation in Budapest during World War II and came to the United States in 1947. He has been the Spiritual Leader of the Park East Synagogue in New York City since 1962.

A Holocaust survivor, and the Founder and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, Rabbi Schneier has devoted his life to overcoming the forces of hatred and intolerance.

He has been a pioneer in bringing together religious leaders to address ethnic or religious conflicts. For example, in Bosnia in 1997, he convened government and religious leaders to promote healing and conciliation between Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish communities. In the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia he worked with the Orthodox Patriarch and the Turkish Government to hold the Peace and Tolerance Conference in 1994 and address religious and ethnic tensions in that area. In the former Yugoslavia, he mobilized religious leaders to halt the bloodshed of the early 90s, holding the Religious Summit on the Former Yugoslavia and the Conflict Resolution Conference to build support and consensus among religious leaders of different faiths. Since the early 1980s, he has led delegations of religious leaders to China to open a dialogue on religious freedom.

I hope my colleagues will join us in honoring this distinguished pioneer of religious freedom with a Congressional Gold Medal.

HONORING FATHER ISAAC MASGA AYUYU

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, we recently celebrated an important anniversary in the Northern Mariana Islands: between our community and one of our longest-serving spiritual leaders. Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu, a native of Rota, has led the faithful in our islands for twenty-five years. Pale' Ike, as he is fondly known, was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa on August 30, 1986. He is now the Parochial Vicar of Mount Carmel Cathedral on Saipan and the Director of Worship in the Diocese. Pale' Ike is the first ordained priest from Rota, and the first ordained priest of the new Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. He is the fifth local priest to serve our islands.

Hailing from a large family, Pale' Ike has a diverse, well-educated, and well-traveled background that is belied by his humble nature. As a youngster, he attended grade school in Rota. He then moved to our neighboring territory of Guam for his junior high and high school years, which was followed by college in California and Connecticut. Pale' Ike received his spiritual training at Saint Patrick's Seminary in California before returning to his home in the Northern Marianas. The decision that the church was his true calling was formed during his youth, when he was an altar server for two of our region's most well-respected leaders: Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho

of the Northern Marianas and the late Archbishop Felixberto Flores of Guam.

Pale' Ike's parents, Francisca Masga Ayuyu and the late Corbiniano Songao Ayuyu were also supportive of their son's path, which he recalls each time he celebrates mass with the chalice that was a gift from them.

In addition to his duties in the church, Pale' Ike is a strong advocate of, and a member of the Ecclesial Team for, our local chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter program, which is designed to strengthen couples' relationships with one another and with God. His involvement in Marriage Encounter has improved the lives of countless married couples in the Northern Marianas. In his typically unassuming and candid fashion, Pale' Ike explains to others that the program has even improved his relationship with the people to whom he ministers.

Spirituality has always been an important component of life in our islands, even before the arrival of what we think of as ''organized religion.'' The Chamorros and Carolinians of our islands have always held spiritual leaders in high regard. In our small, faith-based community, local priests are in demand. Pale' Ike is a man whose work truly is never done. He baptizes the newly-born and conducts funeral rites for the recently departed; he tends to the spiritual needs of those who are homebound or in the hospital; he conducts weddings; he hears confessions; and he celebrates the Mass. Just a few of his Diocesan titles offer a glimpse into the scope of his responsibilities: he is the hospital chaplain, the coordinator of pre-baptismal seminars, and the coordinator of the marriage preparation program for the Diocese. Outside of traditional priestly responsibilities, in our culture if there is a village fiesta, he plays a lead role; if there is a large family party, he's expected to attend; if someone builds a new home, he is called upon to bless it before it is occupied. Pale' Ike is very much a part of the daily life of many residents of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Please join me in congratulating Pale' Isaac Masga Ayuyu in celebration of his twenty-five years in the priesthood.

HONORING COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cooperative Housing Corporation, located in Somerville, Somerset County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

Cooperative Housing Corporation (CHC) was created in 1986 to address the significant lack of affordable senior housing in central New Jersey. Its founders reasoned that affordable housing need not solely be a municipal burden, but that public/private partnerships could co-support it and foster conscionable development, preserving the aesthetics of community neighborhoods through Shared Living Arrangements for seniors.

It was soon realized that such housing, which would allow each resident to have their own bedroom/bathroom suite while sharing common areas, would also benefit special needs populations, particularly young, employable males. Therefore, the Mission of CHC became, ''to provide older adults and some special needs populations with shared housing facilities and services especially designed to meet their physical, social and psychological needs on a cooperative family basis and, through the caring 'second family' environment, to promote their health, security, happiness and usefulness in longer living.''

CHC opened the first of its seven houses on January 1, 1990, and since that date, has provided round the clock services, sustenance and housing to 157 individuals whose average income has been less than $14,000 per year and whose average length of stay has been a remarkable six and a half years.

The elderly, no matter their physical, emotional or mental condition at the time of admission to any residential program, eventually ''age in place'' and, if frail, are often moved to more restrictive and costly-to-government settings. This reality of aging and new needs of CHC's own residents motivated initiation of innovative programming toward a host of services for this vulnerable population. The operating premise of CHC remains unique. As needs arise, CHC works to address them both innovatively and creatively; modifying program approach born through the reality of senior residents aging in place, from fully independent living to ''Senior Affordable Supportive Housing'' (SASH), of which there is no similar program in New Jersey.

The occasion of its 25th Anniversary, also marks CHC's transition into a new housing model from the 5 unit ensuites to 10 units. This allows CHC to serve additional lower income residents in a more cost-efficient manner, maximizing available public and private resources to address their increasing need for supportive services.

The Housing Partnership is commended for its innovative contributions, the creativity of its Founders, and the consistency and dedication of its Board and Staff through the years in helping to resolve the dilemma of affordable housing for vulnerable populations in our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cooperative Housing Corporation on its 25th Anniversary.

HONORING DENNIS ZIEMIENSKI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor Dennis Ziemienski, the 2011 Sonoma Treasure Artist. An internationally known artist from Glenn Ellen, CA, Mr. Ziemienski is also a prominent supporter of art events in the Sonoma Valley.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Dennis graduated from the California College of Arts and Crafts before moving to New York for a successful career in illustration and painting. He worked with Time-Life, Levi-Straus, Rolling Stone, and the New York Times and has created compelling images for many high-profile clients such as Super Bowl XXIX, the Napa Mustard Festival, the Kentucky Derby, the California Railway Museum, and the San Francisco Zoo.

An internationally acclaimed painter, Dennis has had several solo exhibitions, won numerous awards, taught at prominent art schools, and illustrated well-known book covers. He has also volunteered his teaching skills at local schools and has donated auction paintings or created posters for local Sonoma Valley nonprofits.

Dennis's work is marked by fine draftsmanship and strong, richly colored images inspired by early 20th century painting and posters. He travels frequently to develop different ideas and sensibilities. ''I love to paint my native California and the West,'' he says, ''but the land of my ancestors, Italy and the Mediterranean, has also been a frequent subject . . . it is also important for me to use a romantic sense of history and place, when required, to create a vision that lures the viewer into the picture, creating the desire to 'be there'.''

Dennis is married to artist Anne Ziemienski, and the couple's daughter, Sofia, attends the University of the Redlands.

Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to congratulate Dennis Ziemienski for his designation as the Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year for 2011. Please join us and the Sonoma Valley Community in celebrating his accomplishments and contributions.