EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF REVEREND H.H. LUSK, SR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the pastoral accomplishments of the Reverend H.H. Lusk, Sr. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Reverend Lusk has served as a minister and professional community organizer in the City of Seaside, California for over 50 years.

In the 1950s while living in Memphis, Reverend Lusk attended both Henderson Business College and the Right School of Religion. In 1984, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Human Religions and Organization Behavior from the University of San Francisco. Later, he earned a Master of Science degree in Management and School Administration from Pepperdine University.

After arriving in Seaside, California, Rev. Lusk began ministry at Bethel Baptist Church. Over the course of the last fifty years, he has become an important religious and community leader. Reverend Lusk has served in many positions, including Vice Moderator of the St. John District Association, which covers California, Nevada, New Mexico and parts of Africa. In addition he has served as either a leader or member of such community organizations as the Monterey Peninsula Ministerial Alliance, the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, the Seaside Club International, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., and the National Alliance for Black Observation Day. He has also been active in community education and economic opportunity.

In December 1992, Reverend Lusk was one of 100 ministers to be selected to be a part of the Cross Cultural Pastors Association for Peace delegation in Seoul, Korea. As a result of this trip, he received a vision for Bethel to organize ''Home Cell Bible Study Groups'' throughout the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas. In February 1993, Reverend Lusk accepted an invitation from President Nelson Mandela to be a part of the First African National Conference in history to be held on South African soil. Reverend Lusk was also asked to be one of the monitors for the election held in Johannesburg in 1994.

Among the many awards and honors bestowed upon him are the Outstanding Service Award of the Anti-Poverty Council, the NAACP Man of the Year Award, the Seaside Chamber of Commerce Award, the Elvita Lewis Foundation Award, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Award, The California Legislative Resolution Commendation, and a Congressional recognition for Outstanding Contributions to the Community.

Reverend Lusk is married to the former Bettye L. Jones. They have three sons, Herb Lusk II, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Hendrick H. Lusk and Harold H. Lusk, both of Seaside. Reverend and Sister Lusk, Sr., reside in the city of Seaside, California.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in congratulating Rev. Lusk on his long service in ministry and his many accomplishments.

HONORING U.S. NAVY CAPTAIN DIANNE JOHNSON

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Navy Captain Dianne Johnson.

For the last 36 years, Captain Johnson has loyally served our great nation.

Her dedication, on both active and reserve duty, is one that sailors and citizens should emulate. I know that her absence will be noticed by all those who served alongside her.

For myself, and all her colleagues at the Navy Operational Support Center in Indianapolis, thank you Captain Johnson; may you have a fulfilling and enjoyable retirement that is richly deserved.

ARMY SPECIALIST MATTHEW TROY MORRIS POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 298, a bill that would designate the United States Post Office located at 500 East Whitestone Boulevard in Cedar Park, Texas as the ''Army Specialist Matthew Troy Morris Post Office Building.''

Mr. Speaker, I have the high honor of representing the brave men and women at Fort Hood, Texas, the largest military installation in the world. Every day that I have the opportunity to serve in Congress, I do so knowing that my number one responsibility is to give our men and women in uniform the support and resources they need to be successful. Each time I visit Fort Hood, I see America's finest, the soldiers who put it all on the line to allow us to live in the greatest country on Earth. Only three days ago we celebrated Veterans Day, a somber reminder that freedom is not free. And today, here on the House floor, we remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, another reminder to us all that freedom is not free.

Representing Fort Hood, Texas also comes with the sober reminder of the sacrifice that our young men and women in the military and their families make to the cause of freedom. Since September 11, 2001, 384 army soldiers have been killed in action from the 31st district of Texas, the highest number of any congressional district in the country. Central Texans and their families have sacrificed much, and know that freedom is not free.

Today we celebrate the life and remember one of those patriots who served our country and gave his all, Army Specialist Matthew Troy Morris. Matthew Morris was born on July 16, 1984, in Fairfax, Virginia. He attended Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Virginia, where he earned an ROTC leadership award. He later attended Cedar Park High School in Cedar Park, Texas, and went on to score in the 90th percentile on each section of the General Educational Development Test.

Specialist Morris enlisted in the U.S. Army in December 2005, and attended Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, followed by Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. He graduated from AIT in June 2006 as a Power Generation Equipment Mechanic and was assigned to Howitzer Battery, 2nd Squadron, and the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas. Specialist Morris served with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in Balad, Iraq. Despite the dangerous nature of this work, he remained devoted to his mission, and the heroism he demonstrated in Iraq earned him the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and Combat Action Ribbon.

Matthew Troy Morris was killed on April 6th, 2008, when his vehicle encountered a makeshift bomb in Balad, Iraq. Matthew was only 23 years old. He is the oldest of four children, leaving behind Cory, Katie and Sam. Matthew's parents are Lisa and Glenn Morris of Cedar Park, Texas. His father Glenn served our country in the Vietnam War and we thank him for his service. Matthew was engaged to be married to Ms. Julia Richardson. He is survived by his great-grandmother Ruth Staton Jordan, his grandparents Nancy Jackson and Joane Walters, his aunt Diane Afflerbach and uncles, John and Brian Walters. The sacrifice that our military families make often goes unnoticed, and I would like the entire Morris family to know that we will never forget Matthew and the pain that you have endured. Our country, and this House, has not forgotten Matthew and we are proud to celebrate his life on this day.

Matthew Morris exemplified the highest ideals of the U.S. Armed Forces, and although his passing has left a void in the lives of those who were fortunate enough to know him, they will forever carry memories of this heroic young man close in their hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge immediate passage of H.R. 298, and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an American patriot and hero, Army Specialist Matthew Troy Morris of Cedar Park, Texas.

HONORING MARINE LANCE CPL. JOSH MISIEWICZ FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lance Cpl. Josh Misiewicz, a Marine from the Third District of Illinois who was injured serving our country in Afghanistan. He was awarded a Purple Heart after he stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED) and lost both of his legs. While I am sad for his loss, I am proud he served our country bravely and I know he will continue to live a life of great achievement.

Lance Cpl. Misiewicz's achievements before the Marine Corps were remarkable. A well-rounded young man, he was a standout student-athlete at Lyons Township High School, was recognized by the state of Illinois for his athletic achievement, and went on to play hockey for St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He knew, however, that he wanted to serve his country and embarked upon one of the greatest challenges an American can face: joining the Marine Corps. Demonstrating bravery and leadership, Lance Cpl. Misiewicz chose to join the infantry and rose to become a squad leader.

After being deployed to Helmand Province in Afghanistan, his unit was in charge of continuing efforts to drive out Taliban insurgents and promote peace in the area. On July 20, 2011, in a patrol around that remote region, Lance Cpl. Misiewicz's life would change forever when an IED detonated near him and he lost both of his legs and much of his hearing. Four days later he was transferred to Walter Reed Military Hospital where he continues recuperating.

The difficulty of recovering from such an event for Lance Cpl. Misiewicz and his family is beyond comprehension for many Americans. The outpouring of local support from friends and neighbors, however, is a true testament to this young Marine's character. The love and care of his family and the companionship of his fellow Marines will see him through this trying stage of his life. Our men and women in uniform are some of our bravest people and Lance Cpl. Misiewicz is no exception. He makes us all proud to be Americans.

I ask you to join me in honoring Lance Cpl. Misiewicz for his bravery, commitment to his fellow man, and sacrifice. May he have a speedy recovery and rehabilitation. I know that this is not the last time we will hear from this impressive young man.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2011

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Adoption Day, November 19, 2011, and in support of more than 400,000 children living in foster care.

National Adoption Day began in November of 2000 as an attempt to raise awareness for children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. In particular, National Adoption Day aims to facilitate and finalize adoptions in all 50 states, celebrate and honor those families who adopt, and encourage others to consider adopting. Through the efforts of policymakers, practitioners and advocates, over 35,000 children have found homes on this day. This year alone, organizers hope to finalize adoption for 4,500 foster care children.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that Congress acts to support the tireless efforts of organizations and individuals helping to find loving homes for the thousands of children living in foster care across the country. In my home state of Illinois, more than 15,000 children eagerly await the day they are adopted into a permanent, stable, and caring family. Let us give hope today to those children in search of the homes they desperately need and deserve by raising awareness for this critical issue.

I urge my colleagues and fellow Americans to support efforts that will unite children living in foster homes with permanent families, and to join me in recognizing National Adoption Day on November 19.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF HIGHMARK CARING PLACE CENTERS AND REMEMBERING CHILDREN'S GRIEF AWARENESS DAY

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the good work being done in Pennsylvania to help children and teenagers cope with the loss of a loved one.

For more than a decade, Highmark Caring Place centers in Pennsylvania have worked with hundreds of schools and businesses throughout the commonwealth to promote better strategies for helping young people deal with the death of a loved one. This type of tragedy is a burden faced by too many young people. One out of every twenty children will lose a parent, and one in seven children will lose someone close to them—such as a brother, sister, or grandparent—before they reach the age of 18.

As the holiday season approaches, the pain of losing a loved one often grows as memories of past holidays are revisited. Many grieving children will feel alone and afraid, and although it is often believed that children are less affected by loss and more able to easily continue with their lives, the opposite is true. These children need the caring support of family, friends, and others to help them understand and cope with their feelings.

Since its founding in 1997, Highmark Caring Place has served over 30,000 people and in 2008 alone, provided the equivalent of $428,000 in volunteer service hours. The program brings together grieving children, their families, and trained volunteers to share meals, talk and play games, and engage in group discussions with other families coping with the same experience. These programs are free of charge to the community and open to anyone.

On November 17, Pennsylvanians will mark Children's Grief Awareness Day, a day of remembrance initiated by school students across the commonwealth to bring attention to their classmates coping with a loss. Thousands of students will wear blue to show solidarity with, and support for, their peers. Others will hold assemblies, bake sales, and presentations to raise awareness. I commend these students for their initiative and the compassion they are showing for their peers.

Through their programs and the generosity of their volunteers, Highmark Caring Place is truly making a difference in the lives of grieving children and their families. I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the work they do.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 439

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of Steamfitters Local 439 of Caseyville, Illinois, affiliated with the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada.

The history of the pipe trades goes back before the Civil War. During the mid-nineteenth century, plumbers, steamfitters and gas fitters would have been represented by individual trade locals. In 1889, a plumber from Boston sent a letter to a plumber in Washington, DC, expressing an interest in forming a ''United Brotherhood'' and soon thereafter, the new union was formed. The union name would later be adopted as the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada and be known as UA.

On August 12, 1911, UA General President Martin P. Durkin chartered Local 439 in East St. Louis, Illinois. The local hall would remain in East St. Louis for 76 years. In 1987, the current hall was erected in Caseyville, Illinois, and named the Donald J. Bailey Building in honor of Local 439's retired business manager. In further recognition of the contributions of Donald Bailey and the Steamfitters to the community, St. Clair County named the street where the union hall is located, Donald Bailey Drive.

The current business manager is Charles ''Totsie'' Bailey, who first joined Local 439 in 1978. Throughout his tenure as Local 439 business manager, Totsie has worked tirelessly to provide his members with the best representation possible and also to improve their skills through continuing education and training. Through his leadership, additional training facilities have been opened and educational programs have been developed.

Totsie is a fierce advocate for his members but he is also known for his generosity and his commitment to his community. Totsie leads by example and has personally donated his own resources to assist members, retirees and families of his local as well as many within his community.

Local 439 has always been very involved in volunteer and fundraising efforts and the list of organizations they have helped includes; the

Multiple Sclerosis Society, the United Way, the St. Vincent De Paul Society and the Backstoppers, a local organization that provides assistance to the families of fallen police officers and firefighters. Local 439 holds an annual fundraiser to benefit the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Burn Camp for Kids and has raised over $250,000 in eight years for this worthy cause.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members of Steamfitters Local 439 as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and to wish them continued success in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LAWSTUEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Northeast Iowa Community College Dairy Science Professor David Lawstuen for being named the 2011 Iowa Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The United States Professors of the Year program seeks out the most exceptional instructors in the country who make an impactful difference in their student's lives. Winners of this award must display an effective teaching method, as well as a demonstrably positive influence on his or her students. This program is the only nationwide program that recognizes the excellence of our nation's undergraduate professors and mentors. Entries for this esteemed program are reviewed by top U.S. educators and administrators to ensure that America's best professors are bestowed the honor.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great honor to represent a state with such a proud academic reputation. Professor Lawstuen, his wife Debbie, fellow colleagues, students, and parents of the NIACC community should be very proud of the academic climate they have produced. Professor Lawstuen's student's futures are a little brighter with his capable instruction and I wish him and his colleagues the best as they continue to provide a positive impact on the future leaders of our state and country. Thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES ROUNDTREE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Roundtree for his service of faith and prayer in Brooklyn and dedication to lead others towards a righteous path.

Mr. Roundtree was born in Savannah, Georgia to Minister Levan and Rosabelle Roundtree. He is the third child of ten siblings and grew up in a very religiously Christian home. Growing up Mr. Roundtree attended Dalton Baptist Church in Sylvania, Georgia where he served on the Usher Board. He is a man that takes his spirituality very seriously and looks to spread its power with those he encounters.

Mr. Roundtree relocated to Queens, New York in 1968 where he met and wed Alma Lee. Together they have one son and twin daughters. As a man of faith Mr. Roundtree conducts himself as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Roundtree is a member of Antioch Baptist Church, located in Brooklyn, New York. At this church he served on the Usher Board and as Secretary of the Deacon Ministry for several years. Currently he is the treasurer for Sunday School.

After 35 years of service Mr. Roundtree retired from Gould Paper Company in 2004. He is now an employee of the Board of Education in New York City.

Throughout his life Mr. Roundtree has made considerable achievements: In 2006 he had confirmation of his ordination as Deacon; in 2010 he attained his Associate, Bachelor's and Master's Degree's in theology at North Carolina College of Theology; and in 2010 he also had his confirmation of his ordination as Minister.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. James Roundtree for his dedicated service to the church and his faith.

NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 822) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, after a decade in which 10 to 12 thousand Americans were murdered with guns every single year, the House is considering legislation to protect criminals' ability to carry concealed weapons. This reckless legislation almost certainly would add to our gun homicide rate, which is already 19.5 times higher than other developed countries. This bill will likely add to the gun violence death toll, which totals over 1 million Americans since 1968.

H.R. 822, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act, could open the door for criminals or terrorists to use fraudulent concealed weapon permits from other states. As the Virginia State Police wrote in a letter that I will submit for the record, state police in one state frequently are unable to verify a concealed carry permit from another state. For those states where verification is possible, in many cases states have already established reciprocity. It would be reckless, however, to establish a uniform reciprocity standard under which our police cannot verify many concealed carry permits. Can we risk the possibility that a violent criminal or a terrorist could be pulled over yet be allowed to continue on their way because the police officer is unable to check the validity of a concealed carry permit? Regardless of our respective positions on concealed carry laws, I would hope that we can at least legislate in a manner that preserves the ability of police to protect our communities from violent criminals.

Finally, it is ironic that the self-appointed defenders of states' rights would negate public safety laws across America through Congressional fiat. This bill effectively negates any concealed carry laws in states for out of state residents in a gross abuse of Congressional power which endangers our communities and first responders.

This destructive legislation only will add to the death toll that has already caused so much grief in communities like Northern Virginia. I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

MARKING VETERANS DAY IN LEONARDTOWN, MD

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on Veterans Day, I had the privilege of attending the annual parade honoring our veterans in Leonardtown and remembering the fallen service members from St. Mary's County, Maryland. It was a moving and meaningful ceremony, with many who have served our nation in uniform and their families attending. The parade in Leonardtown is the largest in the state, with a long tradition of honoring the service of Maryland veterans.

The program included four students from Leonardtown Elementary School, each of whom read a brief statement written to answer the question "What does Veterans Day mean to me?" Their words were a powerful affirmation that the ideals our service members have fought to protect continue to be passed on to the next generation, and that with those ideals we teach a love of country and respect for service. I would like to share their statements with my colleagues.

Katy Kindley wrote: "Veterans Day means to honor and love the ones who fought in all wars or to honor someone who didn't fight but served to help those in damaged places. Where do they go when they leave? What places will they visit? Will they ever come back? All armed forces that serve our country take only with them—hope. The hope that they won't let those in need be [needy], the hope to succeed in their job, or the hope to just come home to their families. Navy, Army, Air Force, U.S. Marines, or any other force that serves our country take hope and the will to serve with them.

"If you are the child of a veteran, hold your hand up. How do you feel when your mom or dad leave to go on travel? Do you feel scared they will never come back? Do you wonder if they will bring something back? All of your questions remain with you. I'm glad to say that I too have a brilliant and most valiant veteran to look up to—my dad. My dad does his best to serve in the Navy. A lot of times he leaves for a very long trip. One time, he left for seven months! I was very sad. But I was overjoyed to see him come home. Let's take a day to honor, love, and cherish the ones who served in our country. To all those veterans out there, I say: you rock!"

Liam Byers read his statement: "Can you imagine what life would be like without our

brave veterans? We probably would live in a country where we were not free at all. We couldn't go to school and get a good education for our futures. We couldn't go to the church we wanted or go to church at all. We probably couldn't choose our jobs or even our marriages!

"The brave veterans who risked their lives and health to fight to keep us free are perhaps some of the bravest people in our proud American history. They keep us and our rights safe and free from oppression, such as communism and tyranny.

"We have Veterans Day to honor the brave men and women who fought to keep us and our country free. We have two minutes of silence on Veterans Day called the 'Great Silence,' where we remember everybody who fought (and died) for our freedom. My Boy Scout troop marches in a parade for Veterans Day and throws candy to the parade watchers (and sometime we pick up candy on the road for ourselves!).

"On Veterans Day I feel proud to be living in America, where our noble veterans serve in the Armed forces to keep our country free. How do you feel on Veterans Day?"

Lauren Menges shared these thoughts: "Veterans Day is a day set aside to honor America's servicemen and women for their patriotism, love of their country, and willingness to sacrifice for our freedom. A veteran is anyone who has served in the armed forces, such as: Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, or Air Force.

"Veterans Day used to be called Armistice Day. It honored the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I on November 11, 1918. The end of the war took place on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice. It was declared a legal holiday on May 13, 1938, and was officially declared Veterans Day on November 11. Some people celebrate with a parade. Most schools have the day off. And other countries celebrate by observing two minutes of silence at 11:00.

"I have several family members who served in the military. My great uncle, Gordon Moniz, served in the Korean War, and my uncle, Bryan Menges, served during Operation Desert Storm. My first cousin, Joshua Menges, graduated last year from West Point and is now actively serving his country. I love that my family members served in the military. I am grateful for all the veterans and for their bravery.

"I would like to quote from a poem by Linda Ellis called 'Mommy, What is a Veteran?' 'How do you describe a veteran and the sacrifices they made so that you and your children's children could live free . . .and unafraid? How do you describe a veteran for a child's sake? You say: A veteran is a person to whom we owe every breath we take.' "

Also, we heard a statement from Maddie McCauley: "To many people, Veterans Day is special. Veterans Day all started on November 11, 1919, as Armistice Day. Armistice Day was to celebrate the first anniversary of World War I. Armistice Day was to honor all the brave soldiers who fought in World War I, keeping the United States safe. Now, Veterans Day is to honor all the brave souls who fought in all wars, who gave us our freedom, which many people elsewhere do not have.

"Veterans Day is celebrated with speeches, parades, special church services or ceremonies, visiting graves, and having the Great Silence. Many people visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This tomb holds the body of a U.S. soldier who was killed in battle. Nobody knew who this fearless man was.

"Veterans Day to me is an important holiday. I do have a few veterans in my family. My Great-Grandpa Hal was a fighting ace in the Air Force for many years. My family and I hang our American flag from our house. We also wear red, white, and blue to honor America. I think of many soldiers who endured many tough days away from their family fighting. I think, 'Thank you for all you have suffered just to keep us free and safe.' "

Katy, Liam, Lauren, Maddie, and their classmates, even at their young age, understand the sacrifices made by our veterans. I was glad they were able to participate in the ceremony alongside other public officials, and the many veterans who were on hand.

Together, we all thanked the families of three St. Mary's County fallen heroes for their sons' service and sacrifice. SPC Raymond J. Faulstich Jr. and CPL Matthew Wallace gave their lives serving in Iraq, and SGT Ryan Patrick Baumann fell in combat in Afghanistan. We also applauded a recently-returned wounded warrior, Thomas Caleb Getscher, who lost both legs and part of an arm in Afghanistan. Patuxent Habitat for Humanity will soon be helping to renovate his home to make it more accessible.

In their memory, and in honor of the veterans who returned home, we continue to recommit ourselves every Veterans Day to meeting our obligations to those who served our nation and put their lives on the line for the freedoms we hold dear.

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLENE PHILLIPS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Charlene Phillips, a native New Yorker with a passion for helping others through non-profit means.

Ms. Phillips was educated in the New York City Public School system. She attended Long Island University where she received an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts and a Bachelor of Arts Degree. She graduated with Honors, Suma Cum Laude.

Ms. Phillips is the District Manager for Community Board 3, a position she has held since January 2006. She began working for the Community Board in December of 2004. Ms. Phillips has always enjoyed assisting people and felt that she would be able to live her passion through her position of helping at the Community Board. She has managed for the past 15 years to work in the field of service provider to the community through diverse non-profit organizations.

Prior to coming to Community Board 3, she worked in the office of Attorney Kimberly L. Detherage, again providing service to those of our community. Ms. Phillips possesses a humble spirit and is rarely seen in the forefront. In the 1990s she worked for a church where she provided services to the congregants, often utilizing the services of the Community Board and its former District Manager. Later, she worked for an organization, The Faith Center for Community Development, which specialized in capacity building for organizations within the faith-based community to enhance the communities around them through areas of housing, day care, and multi-service facilities.

In addition to her work at the Community Board, Ms. Phillips is very active in her church. Her activities include singing in the choir, teaching children in Sunday School, and she also worked with the Female Rites of Passage Program for young ladies between the ages of 12–18 for twelve years. She has recently become a Deacon in Brooklyn Community Church.

Ms. Phillips believes that God places you in diverse circumstances to allow you to fully understand exactly where you should be and what you should be doing.

Ms. Phillips' motto is: "If she can help someone as she passes along this way; then her living will truly not be in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Charlene Phillips for her extraordinary ability to serve her fellow constituents with unwavering dedication.

GREATER NEW BEDFORD SALUTES THE VERY REV. CONSTANTINE S. BEBIS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on October 30th, one of the great leaders of Southeastern Massachusetts retired—not from our community, but in his official capacity as the Pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Church. His retirement comes to some extent as a loss to our community, although after 58 years of superb service, no one can begrudge him that step. But we do not believe he will be retiring from the extraordinarily important role he has played in the life of the community at large.

Father Bebis was a man of great enthusiasm for life, deep learning and an example or religion in its very best sense. To be with him was to draw strength from him, to be inspired and cheered by him, and to feel lucky to be one of the countless people whom he treated as friends.

Mr. Speaker, in the New Bedford Standard Times, Saturday, October 29th, Linda Andrade Rodrigues wrote a very thoughtful piece that captures the spirit of Father Bebis and the love that people in our region have for him. I ask that this be printed here.

[From Southcoast Today, Oct. 29, 2011]

'HE HAS ILLUMINED OUR MINDS, DEEPENED OUR SOULS, ENLARGED OUR HEARTS': THE VERY REV. CONSTANTINE S. BEBIS RETIRES AFTER 58 YEARS AS PASTOR

(By Linda Andrade Rodrigues)

DARTMOUTH, NH.— The Very Rev. Constantine S. Bebis, the beloved pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Church for the past 58 years, will officially retire on Oct. 30, celebrating his last Sunday service as "proistamenos".

Born on the isle of Crete, Bebis never dreamed that he would someday come to America. As a young boy, he lived in Pireaus, Greece, with his widowed mother

who struggled to raise her three young children while working as a seamstress.

The family survived the German occupation from April 1941 to October 1944.

''Italy bombed us, Germany bombed us, and then the allies bombed us,'' he said. ''Many of my neighbors got killed. How I survived was a miracle!''

Bebis said that during this difficult time, the Greeks longed for emancipation from the Americans and the British.

''I had no money, but I wanted to study English,'' he said. ''I gave an English teacher part of my bread coupons. I denied myself food so I could buy books and learn English.''

During a catechism class, the teacher asked if any of the students had considered the priesthood.

''I was the only one who raised a hand,'' he said. ''I wanted to become a priest like my grandfather.''

At the end of the class, the teacher asked him, ''Do you want to go to America?''

''Of course,'' he answered.

A short time later an American bishop visited Greece, and Bebis was chosen as a seminarian. He arrived in the United States in 1947.

He received a full scholarship to study theology for the priesthood of the Greek Orthodox Church.

''This country has been wonderful to me,'' he said.

Bebis earned a master's degree in theology and was ordained on March 25, 1951.

The same year he wed Irene Vouris of Watertown.

''I married a wonderful woman,'' he said. ''Irene was a beautiful lady, the redeeming feature in my life, and she gave me four marvelous, successful children: Stephen, George, Paul and Constance.

''I am also grateful for my 11 grandchildren and four great-children''

Bebis became the pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in New Bedford on Oct. 1, 1953.

''When I came to New Bedford, some prominent people told me that this was a difficult parish in a difficult town, and they gave me six months,'' he said laughing. ''I found the people extremely fine, and in every person I saw the image of Christ.''

Bebis has always been involved in ecumenical activities, serving as a member of the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford since 1954.

''I was very happy to associate myself with both my friends from the Inter-Church Council and the many Catholic priests,'' he said.

In May 1976, the ecumenical patriarchate of Constantinople awarded him the title of protopresbyter, the highest rank of a married priest in the Greek Orthodox Church.

Bebis reached out to the community as pastor; as founder of the antipoverty agency, the Agnes Braz and Hope Bean North End Community Center; and as president of Onboard Legal Services for the Poor, among a host of other charitable work.

In May 2003, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston conferred upon Bebis the ancient office of archimandrite, the title given to priests who are eligible to become bishops.

Bebis was honored by the City of New Bedford in 2004 for his more than 50 years of service to the community. His portrait by artist Deborah Macy is on display at the New Bedford Free Public Library.

A bench in front of the Math and Science building at Bristol Community College also pays tribute to the Greek immigrant who became the beloved father to his congregation, as well as friend and benefactor to the community at large.

Marking his amazing journey are these words carved in stone: ''He has illumined our minds, clarified our vision, deepened our souls, enlarged our hearts, broadened our compassion, enriched our spirit, and our humanity.''

Bebis said that his mission was crowned when the congregation moved into their new church building on Cross Road in Dartmouth two years ago.

''It was an emotional thing for some of the parishioners to leave the old church,'' he said. ''But the church is flourishing in our new facilities. I am amazed at the attendance.''

A resident of New Bedford, Bebis said that he will remain a faithful and supportive member of the parish.

''I decided to retire, but a priest never retires,'' he said. ''I will still be here as a member of the parish. As long as I live, I will serve the church.''

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YMCA OF DANE COUNTY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the YMCA of Dane County and to honor all those who make this institution such an influential part of our community.

As a component of the greater YMCA system, the Dane County Y exemplifies the values of the national organization. The YMCA of Dane County is committed to youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. These three areas of focus fuel the numerous programs and services the Y delivers to our community. In 2010, the YMCA of Dane County graciously spent more than $572,000 in programs that benefit the public.

The YMCA is a place where more than 19,800 youth members cultivate skills and gain the self-confidence necessary to become successful and positive members of society. Programs like Fill the Gap help youth grow by targeting at-risk teens and engaging them in challenging and fun activities in safe environments. Furthermore, thirty licensed before and after school sites throughout the county care for 1,200 children each day. These sites provide the necessary environment to keep children learning, engaged, and safe.

Additionally, the Y's Healthy Living initiative is fighting the country's obesity epidemic by encouraging a more active lifestyle. Each year, the YMCA reaches over 60,000 people through their wellness programs and provides a safe and clean environment for exercise. Furthermore, various exercise classes and access to pools and gymnasiums help encourage our community to stay fit and healthy.

The YMCA of Dane County also works towards producing hard-working members of society with its social responsibility programs. The YMCA's mission strives to ensure that every person has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive, regardless of socio-economic status. One of the many ways the Dane County Y fulfills this mission is by providing support, educational, and training services to unemployed citizens, which are desperately needed in the tough economic times we face today. This clear and determined dedication to improving the lives of community members not only physically, but also emotionally, highlights the importance of the YMCA of Dane County.

The Lussier Family East, Northeast, and Lussier Family West branches of the YMCA of Dane County work in conjunction to better our community and provide valuable resources and support. Along with the three branches, the four youth centers and numerous child care locations create a strong network dedicated to improving the lives of the members of our community.

I admire the mission and efforts of the YMCA of Dane County and look forward to many more years of service to our community. I proudly join those across Dane County, the entire state of Wisconsin, and our great nation in celebrating the 125th anniversary of the YMCA of Dane County and in thanking the members, employees, volunteers, and donors for their exemplary service to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO IZORA NEAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective First Grade Izora Neal for her dedication to restoring law and order in my district, as well as for bridging the gap between the community and the police.

Detective First Grade Neal is currently assigned as the Community Affairs Officer of Police Service Area #2. She entered the New York City Police Department Academy in 1994. Upon her graduation, she was assigned to the PSA #2. Detective Neal excelled—engaging in numerous arrests while gaining experience on the force. Detective Neal was assigned to the Community Affairs position in October 1997. She entered the position with confidence and a genuine desire to have a positive impact for all New York City Housing Authority residents.

Detective Neal was ambitious about the prospects of becoming detective and made great strides towards accomplishing her goal. In July 1999, her perseverance was recognized as she was promoted to the rank of Detective Special Assignment. As a newly promoted Detective she continued in her present assignment and utilized her leadership and strong interpersonal skills, gaining the trust of all residents. In her continued pursuit for success, Detective Neal was promoted to the rank of Detective Second Grade in February 2003. Although pleased with her present rank and assignment, Detective Neal's desire for excellence compelled her to continue working hard. Her devotion for a better quality of life for all NYCHA residents proved to be very successful. In August 2006 she was promoted to the rank of Detective First Grade.

Currently, Detective Neal continues to make strides while assigned to Police Service Area #2, giving her the opportunity to display her leadership skills, and her dedication towards the community. As the Community Affairs Officer one must ensure a bond of trust and reliance between the police and community; one must be open-minded, unbiased and sensitive to the concerns and problems within the community, display empathy and compassion with sincerity, but not in a rehearsed manner. These ideas are a part of the partnership that allows Detective Neal to define herself as the Community Affairs Officer of Police Service Area #2.

Detective Neal is happily married to Anthony Neal (whom she met on 09/11/2001), and has a 5 year old son Jaylen. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Detective Izora Neal for her pursuit of excellence in the field of law enforcement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 842 I voted "no" but intended to vote "yes".

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to offer my support of the first ever National Rural Health Day.

My district is home to five rural hospitals, Deckerville Community Hospital, Harbor Beach Community Hospital, Marlette Community Hospital, Scheurer Hospital and McKenzie Memorial Hospital.

Thanks to these hospitals, my constituents, as well as 62 million Americans living in small towns and rural communities across the United States, have greater access to medical services and comprehensive care near the communities where they live.

During my time in Congress, I have been proud to support rural hospitals in my district. I took a leading role in helping to complete the Thumb Rural Health Network's wireless communications system. This infrastructure links all eight of the rural hospitals serving Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties, in order to create greater communication about patient care between this region's hospitals and allow for more medical consultation from specialists from other Michigan facilities via remote technology.

I believe that it is critically important for all Michigan residents to have access to quality health care services, and I know that each rural hospital is continually looking for innovative and resourceful ways to reach this goal despite geographical obstacles.

In my district, rural hospitals account for nearly 1,000 jobs. In a time of economic uncertainty and rising unemployment that has hurt Michigan businesses and families, I am encouraged by the many benefits rural hospitals bring to the communities they serve.

I would like to praise rural hospitals on National Rural Health Day and extend my thanks for the work they do for our communities in my district, as well as across the Nation.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. AMERSPEK

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, last week, our Nation paused to mark Veterans Day. America's soldiers, sailors, Marines and Airmen and Airwomen have always responded to the call of duty in defense of our great nation. These dedicated members of our community deserve our endless thanks, not only on Veterans Day, but at every single opportunity that we can show them our gratitude.

Therefore, my colleagues, it is quite fitting that I call to your attention the dedicated service of one member of the "Greatest Generation." John P. Amerspek of Succasunna, New Jersey, will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of his birth this week and I invite you to join his family and friends in thanking this great American for his many contributions.

Like so many of his generation, John Amerspek knew the necessity of accepting one's responsibilities and was willing to make sacrifices for his country. As troops of the World War II era were known to say: "if the country is good enough to live in, it's good enough to fight for."

Thus, John found himself in the United States Army's 3rd Division, far from home, fighting one of the most controversial, yet least publicized, major engagements of World War II—the Anzio Beachhead in western Italy.

It was a brutal campaign, but essential to eventual Allied victory in Europe. The two German corps engaged on the Anzio front were originally destined for Normandy. The success of the Allied landings on the beaches in France in June 1944 were due largely to the tenacity of the Allied forces at Anzio.

But the price of this crucial victory was high. Allied forces suffered nearly 87,000 casualties. In one measure of the courage and sacrifice of those who fought there, 22 Americans were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the most of any single battle of World War II.

John was there from the beginning. He was wounded twice and discharged himself from a field hospital so he could return to the fight with the mates in his own unit. As John says matter-of-factly, "I was one of the very fortunate ones that not only survived Anzio, but the many campaigns to follow. I would never regret the experience, but would never like to experience it again."

John's units were the first to liberate Rome. And then it was off to the Island of Corsica, Southern France, the Alsace Lorraine, the Vosge Mountains, crossing the Rhine into Germany and finally into Salzburg, Austria.

In the course of this extended personal campaign, John Amerspek was among the liberators at the infamous Dauchau concentration camp. In late April 1945, American troops found approximately 32,000 prisoners, crammed 1,600 to each of 20 barracks, which had been designed to house 250 people each. Nearly 32,000 people were exterminated at this camp, which John appropriately called the "Dauchau Horror Camp."

After the war, John returned home to New Jersey, took advantage of the GI bill and eventually began 60 years of official and unofficial professional support of the Army's Picatinny Arsenal—an invaluable national military resource and the home of American firepower.

An expert in all phases of military program management including the development of new concepts through research and development, cost control, field service, production and budgeting, he rose to senior leadership positions at Picatinny. His goal was always to provide our warfighters with superior firepower from a wide range of weapons for infantry, artillery, mortars, rockets, missiles and aircraft-launched munitions. There is no doubt that his material and management contributions strengthened the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.

John ended his formal government career in 1981 after 40 years of uniformed and civilian service. He went on to continue his contributions to our great military in various senior roles with the National Defense Industrial Association, the Army ARDEC Advisory Board, among other organizations. His awards are too numerous to list.

It should suffice to say that in 2004, Picatinny's Armament Research Development Engineering Center, ARDEC, named its headquarters' executive conference room after John Amerspek.

Today as senior military and civilian leaders enter the conference room, they pass a simple bronze plaque, bearing his likeness and the phrase "Soldier, Leader, Patriot, 1942–1981,"

Anyone who has had the privilege of knowing John Amerspek, understands that he fits those descriptions precisely.

Having just marked Veterans Day and as we prepare for the Thanksgiving season, it is fitting that all Americans give thanks for the service of John Amerspek and all of his fellow soldiers, leaders and patriots—past, present and future.

A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MORRISON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Major Morrison for his dedicated public service to his country, community, and family.

Reverend Major Morrison, III is son of Marian and Major Morrison, Jr. Reverend Morrison grew up in New York City where he attended Medgar Evers College with a concentration in Liberal Arts. He then transferred to New York City Community College and studied Mechanical Engineering.

In 1979, Reverend Morrison joined the United States Merchant Marines and served until 1998. He was elevated to the post of Watch Engineer. Reverend Morrison served one tour duty in Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1991. After serving his country he started working at the Veterans Medical Center in New York City where he is presently a Systems Boiler Plant Operating Engineer.

Reverend Morrison was called into the ministry at an early age. He was baptized in the Methodist tradition and faith. Reverend Morrison was a choir member; Boy Scout; and served as an usher. Reverend Morrison has preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ in various denominational settings: Baptist; Methodist; and Presbyterian.

Reverend Morrison felt compelled to continue his education and enrolled in Somerset Christian College pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Upon completing his degree at Somerset Christian College, Reverend Morrison will enhance his ministerial capabilities as a biblical interpreter at The New York Theological Seminary in the Master of Divinity Program.

Reverend Morrison has been engaged in many civic associations: he is a former member of Community Board 4; sat on the Public Safety and Human Services Committee; was a chaplain for the New Jersey Eastern Star Home; and serviced the veterans at St. Albans Community Living Center—Unit A5.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Reverend Major Morrison for his excellence in working with Veterans and his service within the church.

NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 822) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 822, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act offered by my colleagues, Representatives STEARNS and SHULER. I want to thank them for their leadership on this legislation, which protects the basic second amendment freedoms that are so important to central and southside Virginians.

This bipartisan bill would allow valid state-issued concealed firearm carry permits to be honored by any state or U.S. territory that allows concealed carry, requiring that each state recognize another's carry permits, just as they recognize each other's drivers' licenses.

Currently, 49 of 50 states, including the Commonwealth of Virginia, have laws permitting concealed carry in some fashion. Additionally, over half of those states—25 of those 49—already honor the Virginia concealed carry permit.

This legislation, which has overwhelming support in the House—from representatives from 48 states and both sides of the aisle—would allow central and southside Virginians to utilize their carry permits in all of the 49 states that allow concealed carry.

The constitutional right to keep and bear arms and the ability to defend one's self are fundamental liberties which were protected by our founding fathers. H.R. 822 recognizes that these basic liberties should not be constrained by borders or boundaries, and does so without hindering states' authority to set criteria for their own residents, and without affecting state laws that regulate how concealed firearms are carried.

I am proud to cosponsor this legislation as I continue to work to protect our second amendment freedoms for those in Virginia's 5th District and across the country, and I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting passage of this bill.

RECOGNIZING FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR FROM THE COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize eight true American heroes from my community: From Bucks County, William Bond, William Clarke, Russell Hoff, John Masko and James Reily; from Montgomery County, Donald Lewis and Edgar Waite, Jr.; and from Burlington County, New Jersey, Al Romanowski. I am honored to address you and I want to take this opportunity now to personally thank each one of them for extraordinary service to our Nation.

It is because of men like these that America has the strongest, most professional military in history and the freedoms that we enjoy today. Some may say our military strength is due to our technological and weapon superiority, but, as General George S. Patton said, ''Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory.''

The men and women who make up our Nation's armed forces are the most dedicated, most patriotic, and most courageous soldiers. They are unwilling to accept anything less than mission success.

During the Second World War, our countrymen joined the fight to eradicate the insidious spread of Nazism and Fascism across Europe and Asia. Over 16 million Americans served during World War II. 416,837 made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation during this war. Your service helped shape the world we see today, a world with America's beacon of freedom still shining proudly.

Tens of thousands of others were captured and subjected to harsh conditions and rough treatment as prisoners of war. Since World War I, over 142,000 Americans have been captured and interned as prisoners of war. There are nearly 30,000 former POWs that are still living—with almost 90 percent of those having been captured during World War II. The brave service members I honor today make up just eight names of those 30,000—but they have had a significant impact within our local communities. William Clarke and James Reily had been crew members on B–17 bombers that were shot down over enemy territory. The others were with infantry units that were captured by enemy forces.

Our Nation is thankful for their service and I remain committed to providing those who have sacrificed so much with the highest quality care and all the benefits that they deserve. George Washington said, ''The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.'' Today, a new generation of brave men and women, inspired by their legacy of service and sacrifice, has answered the call to defend America from the new global threat of terrorism.

I thank Catherine ''Cay'' Burns for her dedication and leadership as Commander, for more than 32 years, of the American Ex-Prisoners of War Liberty Bell Chapter. Cay's late husband, Leroy Burns, was a former American prisoner of war who joined the Army shortly after World War II began. He conducted his basic training at what is now Fort Dix. He served in the North Africa campaign and was captured in 1944 when his unit was overrun by German forces in Italy. Cay's tireless work has been instrumental in the creation of this memorial grove honoring the former prisoners of war from our community.

Furthermore, I thank the students of Bucks County Technical High School and their teacher Steve Whitmore. These students played a fundamental role in providing the stone plaques that now honor the service and sacrifice of the eight remaining former prisoners of war from our community. There was a shortage of funding available, but these students volunteered their time to turn the memorial grove into a reality.

Again, one final thanks to William Bond, William Clarke, Russell Hoff, John Masko and James Reily, Donald Lewis, Edgar Waite, Jr., and Al Romanowski for their service and sacrifice as former American prisoners of war. They are true protectors of liberty in this world and their dedication to a grateful Nation will never be forgotten.

145TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ASPCA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 145th anniversary of the founding of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), which has been headquartered for the last 60 years on the East Side of Manhattan in my congressional district. Founded by Henry Bergh in 1866, the ASPCA provides effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals in New York City and throughout the United States.

The ASPCA was the first humane society in North America. Throughout its 145-year history, the ASPCA has operated under the belief that animals are entitled to be treated kindly and respectfully by humans and to be protected by the law. Last year, thousands of pets were adopted from its Onyx and Breezy Shefts Adoption Center and over 37,000 free or low-cost spay and neuter surgeries were provided to needy pet parents across the five boroughs. The ASPCA's Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital has been providing affordable, quality veterinary care in the New York metropolitan area since 1912.

Although the ASPCA was founded to help protect working horses and other animals in New York City, its services and outreach now stretch to animals and communities throughout the United States. From shelter and rescue grants, to veterinarian care and training, to cruelty response and humane law enforcement, the ASPCA is a national leader in animal cruelty prevention. In 2010, its Animal Poison Control Center handled over 167,000 cases. The ASPCA's disaster response team has cared for animals during emergencies nationwide, including after animal fighting raids, and recently in Joplin, Missouri, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene.

Henry Bergh stated, ''mercy to animals means mercy to mankind.'' He knew compassion for animals leads to a better human heart and society. I am proud to congratulate the ASPCA and its over one million supporters on its 145th anniversary. They continue to be the voice of those unable to speak for themselves.

A TRIBUTE TO ALICE ADELL MAYS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Alice Adell Mays for the many accomplishments she has attained in my district throughout her life.

Ms. Mays was born in Halifax County Virginia, about six and a half decades ago. Growing up on a farm as the second oldest of five children she was endowed with the responsibility of being the caregiver at an early age. This was never an issue for Ms. Mays, as she always had a loving and compassionate heart.

Ms. Mays was educated in Virginia and later migrated to New York City. Once settled in, she began working as an usherette for playwrights such as Neil Simon at the Eugene O'Neil Theatre and other local theatres. Presently, she is a Childcare Provider and package receiver for the community. She has not only raised her own children, but she has been a community mother for numerous years.

Later she met and married George (Gee) W. Mays. Together they reared six children; three have preceded them in death. She also has four grandchildren and one great grandchild. Through it all, her faith has gotten stronger in Christ, and she gives back to her community through her devout religiosity.

Ms., Mays was a faithful member of the Greater Friendship Baptist for many years where she served as President of the Deaconess Board and on the pastor's aide ministry. In 2003, after the death of her mother, she moved her membership to Union Baptist Church. There she works in the capacity as President of the Pastor's Aide and will willingly help other church ministries in their efforts.

Ms. Mays has many hobbies that include conversing with people from all walks of life; playing games of various sorts; and beautification of one's self, making sure her hair, nails, and makeup are done on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Alice Adell Mays for her dedication to her faith and the nurturing personality she has developed with all those she is in contact with.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I should have voted yes on H. Res. 463, the rule that would provide for House floor consideration of H.R. 822, a bill that would require states that allow the concealed carry of firearms to recognize concealed-carry permits issued by other states, known as the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. DAVID C. FORBES, SR.

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the remarkable life of service of the Reverend Dr. David C. Forbes, Sr. of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dr. Forbes is the founding Pastor of Christian Faith Baptist Church, and he is retiring from the church after 21 years of faithful ministry. His work there culminates a lifetime of service to the cause of social justice and to the betterment of the community.

Dr. Forbes came of age during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. He embraced his place in history, helping to found the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, later led so ably by our colleague, Rep. JOHN LEWIS. Dr. Forbes quickly made his mark as a leader. He has spent the last fifty years answering the prophetic call to justice and leading others to join him.

After graduating from Shaw University with a degree in education, David Forbes spent his early career focused on the needs of young people. He taught middle school students in Wilson, North Carolina, and then headed north to New York, where he worked as a teacher, youth center director, and VISTA coordinator. Along the way, he earned a master's degree in social work from Adelphi University and transitioned to the world of higher education, spending more than a decade teaching at Virginia Commonwealth University.

It was during this time that Dr. Forbes found his calling as a minister, and, eventually, came home to North Carolina. He spent 6 years as senior minister of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh before becoming the founding pastor at Christian Faith Baptist. Christian Faith Baptist isn't just a place of worship; it is an activist congregation dedicated to serving the least among us and to achieving what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called the ''beloved community.'' Through David's leadership, the church has taken on many missions both locally and internationally, such as sponsoring free HIV/AIDS testing clinics; providing Saturday meals for the needy; funding scholarships for young men; and supporting the children of incarcerated parents.

Dr. Forbes' partner in all things was his wife of nearly 50 years, Hazel Baldwin Forbes, who passed away last year. Hazel shared David's passion for education and the church, and she and my wife Lisa found they had much to talk about as fellow social workers. She was also a gifted musician, and served as choir director and accompanist at Christian Faith.

Dr. David Forbes leaves a rich legacy at Christian Faith, one that will be both remembered and upheld. I speak for many North Carolinians in honoring him as a ''good and faithful servant'' who has helped build a better and more just world in everything he has done.

T IS FOR TENACIOUS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, T is for Tenacious.

Withelma ''T'' Ortiz-Macey who was recently awarded a Woman of the Year award by Glamour Magazine exemplifies tenacity.

T is a survivor of domestic minor sex trafficking, but she does not let her past trauma get in the way of her advocacy for other victims of this horrendous crime.

She shares her story with Members of Congress, advocates, the public, and other victims in order to put an end to this dastardly deed so that no one else ever has to go through the violence and trauma she endured.

T's life has not been easy.

She was abused as a child and when she met someone who she thought would love and care for her, she was made into a sex slave, her innocence crushed.

Domestic minor sex trafficking is a hidden crime, one that many do not realize occurs in communities all over our country.

Young girls are sold on the street and on the Internet for profit.

And to make matters worse, these girls are usually treated as criminals, when in reality they are victims.

These girls need specialized treatment, not to be thrown in a jail cell.

And T is working to change this.

T is an incredible young woman, and I commend her for her great work and congratulate her on her recent award.

And that's just the way it is.

DELAWARE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th Anniversary of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. This is especially true in Delaware County. The business owners and entrepreneurs help make our region what it is today. These businesses have been relying on the support and services of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce for 125 years. They are a true asset to our community. The Chamber provides businesses with valuable benefits, seminars and programs that give our business community the tools they need to succeed.

Particularly during this time of economic uncertainty, the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce provides an immeasurable benefit. As the bridge between business and government, the Chamber has helped create a business friendly environment. By showcasing the incredible benefits of Delaware County, the Chamber is demonstrating why they are poised to lead us into a new era of growth.

On behalf of the region's residents, I congratulate the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce on its 125th anniversary. I want to

thank the Board, staff and members for their service to southeastern Pennsylvania and for making our region a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. I wish them all the best for continued success in the future.

NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 822) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 822 because it threatens to undermine our states' ability to enforce their own gun laws and endangers the safety of our citizens, especially those that serve in law enforcement.

If this legislation passes, it would mean that the Republican-controlled Congress will automatically give anyone the right to carry a concealed, loaded weapon into Minnesota's neighborhoods. This reckless bill is opposed by mayors, governors, domestic violence prevention advocates, and major law enforcement organizations, including the Minnesota Chief of Police Association. As members of our law enforcement community will attest, the best way to prevent gun violence is to keep guns off the street and out of the hands of criminals. Gun traffickers routinely take advantage of gun show loopholes and negligent background checks to divert guns from the legal market into the criminal market. This legislation makes it even more difficult to trace illegal guns and keep them out of the hands of those that could inflict harm on our Minnesota law enforcement officers, families, and friends.

H.R. 822 takes away Minnesota's right to police its own communities and enforce its own stringent gun laws. As with every state and municipality across the country, Minnesota has developed its laws to adequately meet the needs of its residents. This legislation unfairly forces states with strict gun laws to recognize conceal-and-carry permits issued by any other state, even if those states' permit requirements are lax in comparison. This is unjust and ultimately dangerous, especially for communities faced with high crime rates.

The sobering statistics from the U.S. Census report speak volumes: of the 129,741 murders that were reported between 2000 and 2008, nearly two-thirds of the victims were killed by a firearm. Equally frightening is the deadly role firearms play in domestic violence incidents. According to the American Journal of Public Health, abused women are five times more likely to be killed by their abuser if the abuser owns a firearm. Research also shows that between 1990 and 2005, firearms were used to kill more than two-thirds of spouse and ex-spouse homicide victims. These numbers are tragic. Instead of empowering our local law enforcement officers to prevent such heinous acts, H.R. 822 ties their hands by making it harder to determine whether someone carrying a gun is doing so illegally. I oppose this legislation in order to preserve the safety of our communities and prevent the gun violence that has claimed hundreds of innocent lives.

A TRIBUTE TO CARL LUCIANO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Carl Luciano, a Brooklynite who has offered decades of service to my community through education and social welfare programs.

Mr. Luciano is a lifelong Brooklynite, educated in the New York Public school system. It was the streets of Brooklyn that gave Mr. Luciano the passion for the work that he currently does. He is presently working with Councilmember Darlene Mealy and has had the fortunes of working with many other officials in the Brooklyn community.

The Lord has allowed Mr. Luciano to work under three other elected officials. The blessing in working with all of these elected officials is that they all share the same passion as Mr. Luciano towards education and empowerment of the community of Bedford Stuyvesant. Through education, a youth can change their personal lives and the lives of others living in their community. It is Mr. Luciano's way of paying it forward—the service he offers Brooklyn constituents.

Mr. Luciano has resided in Bedford Stuyvesant for over forty years. He has witnessed the good and bad of his community. In his spare time he devotes attention to youth intervention, willing to communicate with anyone interested in learning the power of community through unity. He has planted this seed in various platforms for the past eleven years. Mr. Luciano's strength comes from his spiritual grounding and guidance through his relationship with Christ Jesus.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Carl Luciano for his accomplishments in Brooklyn.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was $4.8 trillion.

This week it hit $15 trillion. Today, it is $15,026,993,847,879.10. We've added 10 trillion dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is $10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed votes which included roll call votes 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, and 836.

If I had been present, I would have voted in opposition of rollcall vote 829, the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2838.

If I had been present, I would have voted in opposition of rollcall vote 830, H. Res. 455—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2838—Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 831, H.R. 3321—America's Cup Act of 2011.

If I had been present I would have cast the following votes on amendments to the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011: rollcall vote 832 (Cummings Amendment): "yea;" rollcall vote 833 (Thompson Amendment): "yea;" rollcall vote 834 (Napolitano Amendment): "yea;" rollcall vote 835 (Bishop Amendment): "yea;" rollcall vote 836 (Slaughter Amendment): "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was meeting with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior. Due to time constraints, I was unable to make it to the House floor to vote for Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 822 offered by Rep. McCARTHY of New York. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND KIMBERLY HEADLEY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Kimberly Headley for her extensive efforts to reform my Brooklyn district through public outreach services.

Reverend Headley was born and raised in East New York, Brooklyn. She started junior high school at age 12 and was promoted from the 7th to the 9th grade. After high school, Reverend Headley entered Bernard M. Baruch College at age 16 where she studied Public Administration. Upon graduation, she entered the workforce as a junior press secretary to then Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman. She stayed in the administration until Alan G. Hevesi became Comptroller.

Reverend Headley has always demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond what is expected of her. In her earlier years, while her father was district leader and

first vice chair of Kings County Democratic organization, she spearheaded all of his fundraisers at which hundreds of people were in attendance. The most successful fundraiser she hosted had an attendance of up to 900 people.

In 1997, Reverend Headley began teaching Sunday school, and became the Sunday School Superintendent within a year in Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. In 2006, Reverend Headley became a licensed minister of the Gospel. Prior to that, she had been preaching in platform services and evangelizing on the subways and streets of Brooklyn. Upon the death of pastor Reverend Charles Dunston, the Lord called Reverend Headley to Berean Baptist Church. She was ordained as a Reverend by Reverend Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr., pastor of Berean Baptist Church. Today she is an active member of the Young Adult Ministry; is a teacher with the New Members and Friends Ministry; and is an associate minister and member of Berean's newest drama ministry.

She is presently a Special Assistant to Congressman EDOLPHUS ''ED'' TOWNS in the Canarsie district office where she drafts most of the proclamations and assists with letters of commendation; condolence; and support for organizations seeking funding from Congressman TOWNS' office. She is his office liaison for the 40th Assembly District and sits on the Cypress Hills Weed & Seed Steering Committee on behalf of Congressman TOWNS.

Reverend Headley holds a Master of Science degree in Publishing. She presently is a second year student at Alliance Theological Seminary in New York City, pursuing a Master's in Divinity in Church Development. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Kimberly Headley for her passion for God's word and the dedication she has for improving our community.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL SCOTT HARPER

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor this morning with great sadness to honor the service of one of Georgia's own, Lance Corporal Scott Harper. On October 13 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, he gave the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and he will be greatly missed.

Lance Corporal Harper was known by his close friends not as Scott, but by his nickname, ''Boots.'' While a student at Alexander High School, he once forgot his tennis shoes for gym class and kept his boots on instead. On that day, he earned a lasting nickname and showed how he was prepared to adapt to all scenarios. When a Marine recruiter showed up at his school senior year, Boots answered the call and chose a life of service in the United States Marine Corps with a courage and motivation that most young men his age have not yet found.

After graduating, Boots served one tour in Afghanistan before returning home. He left on July 13 to begin his second tour of duty with the First Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division. On October 13, his division was struck by small arms fire while conducting combat operations. A fellow Marine was shot first, and Boots ran into opposing gunfire to save his friend. Though Boots lost his life, he saved the life of his wounded friend in the process. Boots was as loyal a friend as there is, and there is no more honor than that.

Boots was devoted to his family and his community. Even when he only had a few days off, he would make the most of his time to come home and visit. Though communication was difficult, Boots wrote his family several times and called home as much as possible. The Saturday before he was killed, Boots called his father to say that he had decided to enroll at the University of Georgia when he returned home.

From Charlie Brown Airfield, crowds lined the streets to escort Boots home one last time, as a testament to the community's support of him and his family. Boots was accompanied by a Marine Corps Honor Guard, the Patriot Guard, the Douglasville Police Department, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, among others. Norfolk-Southern even stopped its railroad cars in honor of the procession. As they passed, everyone stood at salute to honor the fallen Marine.

Boots embodied the ideals that the Marines strive to achieve. I am both honored and proud that this soldier from the Third District fought so hard for our country and our freedom. Boots was a model citizen, soldier, and son. He was an extraordinary young man with incredible potential before him, and he will be forever missed. I am proud to stand here and thank him for sacrificing his life for strangers like me and my family.

Joan and I extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Scott ''Boots'' Harper, and we will never forget the service and sacrifice that he made for our great country.

HONORING SEAN RAY FERGUSON

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Sean Ray Ferguson, who at the age of 29 passed away on November 12, 2011, in Baghdad, Iraq.

Sean was born on July 7, 1982, in San Diego, California to Darryl and Raelynn Ferguson. He was a 2001 graduate of Mt. Whitney High School in Visalia. During Sean's time at Mt. Whitney High, he was a standout player on the football team. He was playing wide receiver his senior year when Mt. Whitney High won the ''Cowhide'' game against Redwood High for the first time in 10 years.

Two months after graduating high school, Sean enlisted in the United States Army, honorably serving our country for eight years, and retiring at the rank of Staff Sergeant due to combat wounds. In addition to two Purple Hearts, one of which was presented to Sean directly by former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, he also received many awards and commendations for his service in Iraq with unit ''Deuce Four.''

After retirement, Sean began working for Triple Canopy, a private contracting company, working as a personal security agent for members of the U.S. State Department. His job required him to return to Iraq, where he was working at the time of his death.

Sean's family recalls his great love for America and freedom. He was fully engaged in our mission of bringing freedom and democracy to the Iraqi people. Sean was proud to be in Mosul, Iraq, when the first elections were held after the fall of Saddam Hussein. His favorite quote was ''Freedom isn't free,'' and he had a deep understanding of the hard and difficult work it takes to be free.

Sean is survived by his parents; his sister, Aimee Sorensen; and his brother, Matthew Ferguson. He is also survived by seven nephews, one niece, his grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

At this time of great sorrow, I hope that Sean's family can take comfort in knowing that we will forever be indebted to his service to our country.

CHANGES TO THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY BOARD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the Fiscal Year 2012 Consolidated and Continuing Appropriations Act contains important changes to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, MWAA, board.

I have been concerned with the actions of the board and have proposed several changes to the structure and function to increase transparency and accountability. Under the new law, members of the MWAA board will no longer be able to serve past the end of their term and all could be replaced for ''cause.'' The changes also increases the size of the board from 13 to 17, with Virginia getting two new appointments and Maryland and the District of Columbia each getting one additional board member.

The changes are fair, providing the governors of Virginia and Maryland and the mayor of the District of Columbia the same authority the president already has under existing law to replace members of the board.

The changes will improve accountability. Until now, board members served until their replacement takes office. There was an incident earlier this year where a board member whose term expired in January 2009 and had not been replaced was voting by proxy from Africa. He was finally replaced in April 2011, more than two years after his term expired. A replacement has yet to be named for a board member whose term expired in May 2010. A third board member's term ends at the end of November and it is unclear if the replacement process has begun.

Board members need to be replaced when their terms end. It's not their fault that they aren't being replaced but if the officials making the appointments know that the seat is going to be vacant, this reform will provide more of an incentive to make appointments in a more timely fashion.

These airports are the economic engine for the region. With MWAA responsible for the Dulles rail project, ensuring that Virginia has

more say and that board members are more accountable is more important than ever. Everything possible must be done to keep the rail project on budget to keep the tolls as low as possible.

Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell wrote Representative TOM LATHAM and Representative JOHN MICA in strong support of these changes. I submit Governor McDonnell's letter for the RECORD as well.

Some interested parties have stated that the original 1986 law that established MWAA is a compact between Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia and that any changes to the structure of the board must be approved by all three localities. I want to state clearly that this is not true.

The independent and well-respected Congressional Research Service has told my office that the MWAA statute has been amended twice in 1991 and in 1996, specifically in response to court decisions involving the Board of Review. It is my understanding that neither change required the consent of MD or DC.

The Practitioner's Guide to The Evolving Use and the Changing Role of Interstate Compacts provides everything else necessary regarding the authority of Congress to enact subsequent legislation that has an effect on approved interstate compacts. Sections of this publication support the claim that Congress remains free to change federal laws, even if those laws have adverse effects on compacts that Congress has specifically consented to.

The relevant sections of the Practitioner's Guide to The Evolving Use and the Changing Role of Interstate Compacts are too long to include here today, but can be found on pages 43–47.

These changes to the MWAA board will improve its function, governance, accountability and transparency and provide greater input for those with a large stake in the successful completion of the Dulles Rail project. Washington Dulles International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport drive economic growth in northern Virginia and the entire Capital region. The MWAA board must operate successfully to ensure the success of both Dulles International and Reagan National Airports and the Dulles Rail, ensuring tolls on local drivers are kept to a minimum.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Richmond, VA, August 8, 2011.

Hon. TOM LATHAM,
House of Representatives, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN MICA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN LATHAM AND MICA: I write you today to respectfully ask for your endorsement and support for changes to the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority Board of Directors being proposed by Congressman Frank Wolf. As you are aware, MWAA, which was created through an interstate compact between Virginia and D.C., as authorized by Congress, maintains and operates Reagan National Airport and Dulles International Airport pursuant to a lease agreement with the federal government. MWAA is also responsible for maintaining and operating the Dulles Toll Road and the Dulles Greenway and construction of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Extension Project.

These facilities are all located within the Commonwealth of Virginia and have a tremendous impact on our economy and transportation network. All funding for the airports, and the current metrorail to Dulles project, is provided by the Commonwealth or its subdivisions, and the federal government. Despite this fact, as chief executive I have no effective mechanism for effectuating a change or providing oversight when the MWAA Board takes action which may be adverse to the interests of the Commonwealth and its citizens. Neither do the other stakeholders in the District of Colombia, Maryland or the federal government. Each appointee to the MWAA Board serves for a period of six years and remains on the Board until a successor is chosen. Neither the federal statutes, nor the respective jurisdictional statutes enabling the interstate compact provide a mechanism for removing a Board member, since they do not currently serve at the pleasure of the Governor. This lack of oversight essentially allows members of the Board to potentially act in accordance with their own goals and directives for MWAA without consultation with or allegiance to the leaders and taxpayers in the Commonwealth and the other member jurisdictions.

Congressman Wolf is seeking changes to rectify this lack of oversight by providing the Chief Executives of each of the member jurisdictions and the President with greater authority in appointing and removing members to the Board. Specifically, members would serve at the pleasure of the appointing executive, and the appointing executive would be provided the authority to remove a board member at any time with or without cause. Furthermore, as referenced above, all of the facilities under MWAA's control are located within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Currently, however, Virginia only has five of the thirteen seats on the board. As such, the Commonwealth should be granted three additional seats on the MWAA Board, increasing the number of Board members representing Virginia and its interests from five to eight. These changes would provide me and future governors the ability to ensure that MWAA's policies and directives are in accordance with the best interests of Virginia's citizens.

I wholeheartedly support the changes proposed by Congressman Wolf, and, again, I respectfully urge you to do so as well. Should you have any questions or wish to further discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean T. Connaughton at your convenience.

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. MCDONNELL,
Governor.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ZIDDE HAMATHEITE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend M. Zidde Hamatheite for his profound dedication to his religion and for sharing his convictions with my community through prayer.

Reverend M. Zidde Hamatheite was born on January 11, 1971 to the late Archbishop M. Zidoneo and Rakal Hamatheite in Brooklyn, New York. He was taught at an early age to respect God and the people of God. It was because of his upbringing that he understood that he would pursue a career in prayer service.

Under the auspices of his Pastor, Rev. Alvin Barnett of West Baptist Church, Reverend Hamatheite learned the ways of the ministry until he turned 25. The Lord led him to accept the challenge as the Pastor of the Gethsemane Baptist Church in December 1995 as a result of his training.

After working in the Department of Education for several years and seeing the desperate need of the young people in this community, Reverend Hamatheite sought to rival against strongholds on the young people. He joined forces with the 73rd Precinct where he serves as Clergy Liaison, Police Chaplin, and Administrator for the Police Explorers Program. He and several members of the church also mentor youth for the Kings County District Attorney's Office in their Youth and Congregation in Partnership Program. Reverend Hamatheite saw the need to teach young men how to be real men so he developed a program that the Lord gave him, entitled, M.O.V.E. (Men of Valor Empowered), working with 12- to 17-year-old young men.

Reverend Hamatheite serves on several boards in my district: he is the Vice President of Bridging the Gap Ministries; first and former President of the Young Pastors, Ministers, and Evangelists Department of the Eastern Baptist Association; and the former Recording Secretary for the Moderator's Department of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Reverend Hamatheite now serves as the Pastor of the Wayside Baptist Church, where he was installed on July 18, 2011. Since arriving at Wayside Baptist Church, Reverend Hamatheite has implemented a new Visionary Theme, "Moving from Conformity to Transformation." During his first year as Pastor he established leadership classes for all leaders, reorganized the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and under his pastorate many have come to give their lives to Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Hamatheite for his passion for God's word and the diverse initiatives he has employed as Pastor of Wayside Baptist Church.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT BRUCE CHRISTMAS UPON RECEIVING THE 2011 WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE AWARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Bruce Christmas for receiving the 2011 Washington County Extension Service Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. Bruce and his family have dedicated their lives to the field of agriculture, and I am proud to recognize their achievements before the United States Congress.

Bruce was born to a farm family in 1933, becoming the fifth generation of Christmas farmers in the Florida Panhandle that stretches back to 1848. He graduated from Cottondale in 1951, received his associate's degree from Chipola College in 1953, and his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1955. He maintained a thirst for learning by earning a Masters of Animal Nutrition in

1959 and a PhD in Poultry Nutrition and Management in 1972, both as a Florida Gator. Bruce also served his country as a member of the United States Army, both active duty and reserve, where he achieved the rank of Sergeant.

Of the 32 years of Bruce's professional service, 21 were spent conducting Research and Field Demonstration Trials. He began as the Assistant and Associate Extension Agent in Orange County, Florida and became one of the first assistants in Florida to be promoted to associate. Bruce then served as the Supervisor of the Florida Poultry Evaluation, continuing to work part-time even after his retirement.

Over the course of his career, Bruce authored roughly 150 scientific and informational publications on poultry, swine, and beef research studies. He has been a member of the Farm Bureau since 1960 and served on the Washington County Farm Bureau Board for nearly 20 years, 16 of which he served as president. Bruce has also served on the Florida Agriculture and Regional Agriculture Councils, as well as the Florida College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Board since its initiation. Bruce received the National Volunteer Service Award from the National Agriculture Alumni Association and has been inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor Bruce Christmas on his success. My wife Vicki and I are proud to congratulate Bruce, his wife of 53 years, Addie Ann; his children, Stuart, Robert, Jonathan, and Scott; and his entire extended family on this truly special occasion.

NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 822) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 822, the proposed National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011. I call on my colleagues to join me in rejecting this ill-considered and unwise legislation which will effectively force all states to accept the lowest-common-standard in concealed carry laws. Passage of this bill is reckless and undeniably a threat to public safety.

This law would add an unnecessary burden on police officers who risk their lives every day in traffic stops and other risky situations. It would make it nearly impossible for them to be able to determine whether the guns they encounter are legal or not.

The very likely and viable threats posed to public safety if this legislation passes are egregious. This legislation will do away with the strict gun laws each state has established according to its constituent composition and needs and empower dangerous individuals to carry concealed, loaded guns in states where they would not qualify for a local permit.

California has one of the most stringent gun laws in the Nation, and there is a reason for that. California had the highest number of gun murders in the Nation last year, 1,257, which is 69 percent of all murders that year and equivalent to 3.37 per 100,000 people in the state.

A very real example of what this legislation will do is a person convicted of domestic violence and not allowed to possess, let alone carry a concealed weapon in California, can cross state lines into a state that does not have the same restrictions, receive a permit for a gun, then cross states lines back into California and exact revenge against his victim.

Proponents against gun laws and restrictions constantly chime, ''Guns don't kill people. People kill people.'' That may be the case, but a person with a gun can kill another much more easily than a person without one. FBI crime statistics based on reports to FBI bureau and local law enforcement show that in 2010, the latest year for which detailed statistics are available, there were 12,996 murders in the U.S.; of those, 8,775 were caused by firearms.

This dangerous bill will allow a resident of a state with strict concealed weapon permitting standards to simply go to and obtain a permit in a state with minimal standards, then head back home and carry a concealed weapon in a state that would have never allowed him to do so in the first place.

If ever you needed a concrete example of why this is such an ill-conceived and dangerous piece of legislation for both the public and law enforcement, consider the recent testimony of Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. The Police Commissioner testified that in 2005, a man named Marqus Hill had his concealed carry permit revoked by Philadelphia Police after he had been charged with attempted murder. Mr. Hill later traveled to Florida, got a new permit despite his record, used his Florida permit to carry a loaded gun into Philadelphia, and later shot a teenager thirteen times in the chest, killing him in the street.

Mr. Chair, the ramifications of such legislation do not stop there. It would also make it easier for gun traffickers to move loaded guns through urban city streets where police officers are already having a difficult time combating crime and violence. It will be nearly impossible for police to verify the validity of 49 different carry permits.

Policing our streets and confronting the risks inherent in even routine traffic stops is already perilous enough. Ambiguity as to the legality of firearm possession could lead to confusion among police officers that could result in catastrophic incidents. Congress should be working to make the job of law enforcement officers more, not less, safe.

Today, states establish standards for carrying concealed, loaded handguns in public places that include criteria beyond an applicant's ability to pass a federal background check. For example, at least 38 states prevent people convicted of certain violent crimes from obtaining carry permits, 14 states require applicants to demonstrate good character to obtain a carry permit, and about half of states grant law enforcement discretion to deny a permit. The National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act would gut these standards and empower dangerous individuals to carry concealed, loaded guns in states where they would not qualify for a local permit.

We see firsthand the tragedies that can unfold when guns end up in the hands of criminals, the seriously mentally ill, domestic violence offenders and other dangerous people. Let us not forget the tragedy earlier this year in Tucson, Arizona. Statistics show that every year, more than 12,000 gun murders are committed in big cities and small towns throughout the United States.

States and localities should have the right to determine who is eligible to carry firearms in their communities. It is essential that state, local and tribal governments maintain the ability to legislate concealed carry laws that best fit the needs of their communities.

H.R. 822 is a dangerous piece of legislation that will create a very real threat to public safety. In opposing this reckless piece of legislation, I stand with the people of my home state of California. I stand with domestic violence prevention advocates. I stand with law enforcement across the Nation and our local police who risk their lives every day to protect the public. I will vote against H.R. 822 and I urge all members of the House to do likewise. For the foregoing reasons I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 822 and allow states to continue to decide for themselves and set their own standards regarding who can carry hidden, loaded guns in their communities.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3451

HON. DAVID B. McKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. McKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I was proud to introduce H.R. 3451, a bill that would name the Federal Courthouse in Wheeling, WV after one of our country's leading and most respected jurists, Honorable Frederick P. Stamp, Jr., Federal Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia.

Judge Stamp has served with distinction and honor since he was nominated by President George H.W. Bush and then confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1990 and served as the Chief Judge of the Court from 1994 to 2001 before assuming senior status in 2006.

Born in Wheeling, WV, Judge Stamp received a B.A. from Washington and Lee University in 1956, and attended the University of Virginia School of Law before receiving an LL.B. from the University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law in 1959. Upon graduation, Judge Stamp was a private in the United States Army from 1959 to 1960, and a First Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves from 1960 to 1967. Prior to his nomination to the Federal Court, he was in private practice in Wheeling, West Virginia from 1960 to 1990.

Judge Stamp and his wife Joan are the proud parents of two children, Andy and Elizabeth.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege for me to introduce this legislation to honor my friend Judge Frederick P. Stamp, Jr., and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO THERESA GRAHAM DEVORE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Theresa Graham DeVore for her many accomplishments as a constituent in the 10th congressional district of New York.

Ms. DeVore was born on June 7, 1945. From an early age growing up in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, NY, she developed a strong concern for her community. As a teenager she witnessed children, adults, and seniors who lost many opportunities for advancement because of a lack of information.

Ms. DeVore began her career as a nursing assistant in the Brooklyn Veteran's Administration Hospital, and was later promoted to clerk. It was during this work experience that she developed administrative skills. She was later reassigned and promoted to Supervisor of Medical Records in the Bronx Veteran's Medical Center. She received special recognition and monetary awards for implementing the first rotating file unit in the Bronx.

Ms. DeVore is committed to doing all that she can through mentoring, support, and sharing with children, adults, and especially seniors the importance of education, and how to fulfill their purpose. She provides them with the skills, knowledge, and direction that contribute to their growth and development. In addition to giving support, she respectfully challenges them to be accountable for choices and decisions that affect their lives. She is lovingly known in the community as ''Momma Tee.''

Ms. DeVore's professional experience includes: CEO and founder of Covenant of Faith Outreach, Inc (faith-based community initiative) which has been in operation for 10 years, issuing referrals and resources to those in need of housing, and information on health issues that affect our community. Covenant of Faith Outreach continues to award scholarships to students who are entering college for the first time and she conducts workshops on topics such as: ''The Awareness of Single, Dating, & Marriage'', ''Mastering the Mysteries of Love'', Grieving, Self-Esteem, tutoring and much more.

Ms. DeVore volunteers as a Chaplain with the United Chaplain International Worldwide Outreach, Inc. She is a member of The National Council of Negro Women; The Unity Democratic Club; The Women's Federation for World Peace; American Clergy Leadership Conference; and the Global Peace Foundation. Presently, she is completing her studies, and will graduate with a Master's of Divinity degree in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Theresa DeVore for her resounding dedication to faith-based initiatives in the 10th congressional district of New York.

HONORING CHIEF RONALD HADDAD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ronald Haddad, Chief of Police in Dearborn, Michigan, for being named a Public Official of the Year by Governing Magazine. As a resident of Dearborn, I can say that Chief Haddad is very deserving of this honor. His commitment to the safety of the residents of Dearborn and his emphasis on community policing is admirable and worthy of all of our praise.

Chief Haddad is the first Arab-American police chief in the State of Michigan, and he is an excellent liaison with Dearborn's large Arab-American community. The reforms he recently spearheaded have turned the Dearborn Police Department into a model law enforcement agency which other cities have sought to replicate. Specifically, the BRIDGES program, which entails regular meetings between leaders of the Arab-American community and government officials, has done much to promote trust and understanding in Dearborn, as well as Southeastern Michigan as a whole. Due to the good efforts and hard work of Chief Haddad and the entire Dearborn Police Department, Michigan's 15th Congressional District is a better place to live and work.

We all owe Chief Haddad an enormous debt of gratitude for his leadership and contributions to our society. Governing Magazine was very wise in choosing Chief Haddad as one of their honorees. I wish him all the best of luck in the future, and I am proud to represent Chief Ronald Haddad in the House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF ARMY SPECIALIST SARINA BUTCHER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional soldier and a true American hero who died in service to this great country. On November 1, 2011, U.S. Army Specialist Sarina N. Butcher was killed at the age of 19 years old in Paktia Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. According to initial reports, Specialist Butcher died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near her military vehicle.

Specialist Butcher was born in Crossett, Arkansas, and spent many of her childhood years in southern Arkansas, where much of her family still lives today. Specialist Butcher eventually moved to Oklahoma, where she graduated high school and eventually joined the Oklahoma National Guard. At the time of her death, she was assigned to F Company, 700th Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Army National Guard, based in Tulsa, Okla.

We now know that Specialist Butcher was the first female and youngest Oklahoma National Guard soldier killed since the wars in Iraq & Afghanistan began, but she will be remembered for much more than that. She will be remembered as an outstanding soldier. In fact, soon after her death, Private First Class Butcher was posthumously promoted to Specialist Butcher. She also earned a National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Oklahoma Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star and Purple Heart all at the age of 19.

Specialist Butcher will also be remembered as a loving daughter, a loving mother to her beautiful 2-year-old daughter, Zoey, and a good friend to all who knew her. She leaves behind an incredible void that will be impossible to fill. My thoughts and prayers are with her daughter; her mother, Dana; her father, James; and, with all of her friends and family during this very difficult time.

Last Sunday would have been Specialist Butcher's 20th birthday. It's hard when we lose any soldier in war, but it's especially hard when we lose such a young soldier. However, Specialist Butcher's too short of a life leaves behind a legacy longer than she could have ever lived. Her legacy of valor, distinction, patriotism and bravery will be remembered for years to come and will be told to her daughter as she grows up.

Specialist Butcher was honored and laid to rest on Veterans Day and I had the privilege to speak at her funeral service. Her story and her sacrifice are startling reminders of what our men and women in uniform risk when they serve this country.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life and legacy of Army Specialist Sarina Butcher, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces, and all of those in harm's way supporting their efforts, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great country. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

A TRIBUTE TO BERNICE BROWN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Bernice A. Brown, a native New Yorker with a passion for helping others through community building.

Ms. Brown was born on October 22, 1921 in Brooklyn, NY to Alice and George Wyche, and was the second to eleven other siblings. She was a 1940 graduate of Girls High School and soon went on to marry her husband of 49 years Charles Brown.

For 20 years Ms. Brown served as an accountant in payroll and retired in 1984. Her true passion and efforts were geared towards the community and her church, joining many organizations and church affiliated clubs. Ms. Brown was a member of Berean Church for 30 years, serving as Treasurer of Berean Federal Union for 18 years, Trustee for 15 years, and being part of Usher Boards.

Ms. Brown's community involvement has been the focus of her career, being affiliated with the Decatur Street Block Association and the Unity Democratic Club. At the Decatur Street Block Association Ms. Brown served as the President for four years, Financial Secretary for eight years, and Treasurer for 10 years. Ms. Brown has also been a member of

the Unity Democratic Club for over 40 years, and served as the first female President of the organization during her tenure, as well as being the Financial Secretary and Treasurer.

Ms. Brown's efforts have extended well beyond what has ever been asked of her and she continues to this day to exemplify her passion for the community. In her spare time Ms. Brown is a member of Area Policy Board and has been a member of Planning Board No. 3 for 30 years. She has also taken an active role at the Key Women Brooklyn Branch where she has served as President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer.

Ms. Brown has been a resident in Brooklyn for over 90 years and has been a major influence in the lives of her fellow constituents. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Bernice Brown for her extraordinary ability to build partnerships between the church and the community while furthering the political process in Brooklyn.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. TRUMAN KAHN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of optometrist and World War II Navy veteran, Dr. Truman Kahn. He was a longtime Memphian whose courage and compassion were felt by those who knew him. Throughout his life, he donated his time to the Sam Schloss Lodge of B'nai B'rith, Beth Sholom Congregation, the Memphis Jewish Federation, and the Democratic Party, as well as being a Hadassah Associate.

Dr. Truman Kahn attended Emory University where he was a member of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity. After leaving Emory University, Dr. Kahn came to Memphis to attend the Southern College of Optometry, where he graduated with honors. During World War II, Dr. Kahn enlisted in the U.S. Navy to serve his country in its time of need. After training at Notre Dame, he served as an officer aboard the USS *Ticonderoga* aircraft carrier. Dr. Kahn's name can be found on both the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. as well as at the WWII Museum in New Orleans.

When World War II ended, Dr. Kahn returned to Memphis after being honorably discharged from the Navy. He married his wife, Gloria Kahn, and opened his first optometry clinic in 1947. Like most other buildings in the southern states during this time period, medical offices were segregated based upon racial identity. Dr. Kahn chose to defy this practice, becoming the first medical professional in Memphis to have an integrated waiting room. Dr. Kahn continued to practice optometry for over 50 years.

Dr. Kahn passed away at 89 years of age. He is survived by his wife, his daughter Susan Dreyfus, his son Stanley Kahn, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His service to country and community will be remembered by all whose lives he touched. His was a life well lived.

IN HONOR OF THE TEXAS RANGERS FACES OF FREEDOM VETERAN HONOREES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Texas Rangers Faces of Freedom Veteran Honorees for their dedicated service to this great Nation.

The Texas Rangers Faces of Freedom program is an initiative sponsored by the Texas Rangers baseball club and Southwest Airlines to honor the extraordinary service of current and former members of our Nation's Armed Forces. Throughout the baseball season, family, friends and members of the military nominated individuals who have shown tremendous strength, courage, and patriotism in the line of duty.

These honorees have served in wars ranging from World War II to the present day conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of these men and women braved horrible situations and suffered severe injuries to save their fellow soldiers. Among the group are several Bronze Star recipients, Purple Heart recipients, Commendation Medal recipients, a married couple who served significant tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and many more extraordinary individuals who have selflessly served our Nation with distinct pride and courage.

On November 10, 2011, my office had the distinct pleasure of welcoming these brave men and women to our Nation's Capitol. Their sense of patriotism and good humor are a testament to the greatest our country has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude and praise for the Faces of Freedom Veterans, and thank them for their extraordinary service to our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. BILL POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 674, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities. I supported passage of the bill in the House of Representatives on October 27 and again, with Senate amendments, on November 16. I was also a cosponsor of similar legislation (H.R. 275) in the 111th Congress. Although I was on the House floor and voting on November 16, my vote was not recorded for H.R. 674. I would like for the record to read that I should have been recorded as a "yes" vote.

RECOGNIZING WILLY BEARDEN FOR 33RD ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Willy Bearden for receiving the 33rd annual Distinguished Achievement Award in the Creative and Performing Arts from the College of Communication and Fine Arts at the University of Memphis. Mr. Bearden is a unique filmmaker, musician and storyteller, and he has used his talents to tell the distinct tales about the great city of Memphis, Tennessee.

Willy Bearden is perhaps best known for his Memphis Memoirs, a series of documentary films detailing the rich local history. The series includes Overton Park: A Century of Change, Playing for a Piece of the Door: A History of Garage Bands in Memphis and Elmwood: Reflections of Memphis. Mr. Bearden also has a feature film to his credit, One Came Home, which was inspired by his Mississippi Delta roots.

His recent Memphis Legacy Project, a collection of thousands of photographs of various neighborhoods around Memphis, will be a resource for local researchers and artists for years to come. Mr. Bearden has also generously given back to his community by lending his talents to the Blues Foundation, the Cotton Museum and the Memphis Wonders Series for corporate and educational films, commercials and award show productions.

The Distinguished Achievement Award was established in 1977 after the death of Elvis Presley when Dr. John Bakke, a communications professor at the University of Memphis, suggested that local talent should be honored while they are still alive. Willy Bearden joins Sam Phillips, founder of Sun Records, B.B. King, Al Green, Rufus Thomas and a host of other talented Memphis recipients.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Willy Bearden. It is important to recognize and appreciate talent while we are fortunate enough to enjoy their continued output. My hope is that Mr. Bearden continues sharing his gifts and unique perspective with us for years to come.

HONORING NEW HOPE BAPTIST MISSIONARY CHURCH ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Santa Maria, California, and in celebration of its 50th Anniversary. This is a momentous occasion. For the last 50 years New Hope Missionary Baptist Church has been a beacon of light, providing support for our community and empowering families on the Central Coast.

Founded in November 1961 in the home of Brother Lwellyn and Sister Setha Crow, with

the help of Brother Carter, Deacons Steve and Sally Wilson, Francis Green, Sister Bertie Mae Hamilton, Meryl Berry, Melvin Robinson, Phyllis Lovaretta, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church was first led by the inspiring Pastor Dr. P.B. Mdodona and his wife First Lady Willie Pearl Mdodona. A few years later, under the leadership of Pastor W.R. Erwin and his wife First Lady Winifred Erwin, property was purchased on West Mill Street to build a new permanent home. In 1989, Dr. Earl James became Pastor, and along with his wife First Lady Sydney James, worked hard to expand the church and its ministries by adding an additional forty-five hundred square feet to the church. In 2007 Pastor James retired and placed the church's reins in the capable hands of Pastor Henry L. Lewis, Jr. and his wife Sister Agatha Shorter-Lewis. Since then, they have centered their work on empowering the community by empowering the family.

For half a century, the ministries at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church have supported Central Coast families, neighbors, and even strangers. It has been a steady source of solace and provided selfless service to the elderly, homeless, and our youth. In fact, many of the church's congregants can be found volunteering at a homeless shelter, singing to the sick, or bringing young adults in the community together in a safe environment.

Mr. Speaker, each day New Hope Missionary Baptist Church lives up to its name, bringing hope to all it touches. With the burning of its mortgage in 2001, we all are very pleased to have the certainty this carries to the congregation and to the Central Coast.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking and celebrating New Hope Missionary Baptist Church for its leadership and service to our community. I am confident the church's fine work will continue to provide comfort and inspiration to all of us on the Central Coast.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE PATRICK CARROLL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Honorable Judge Patrick Carroll of the Lakewood Municipal Court, who is being recognized at Recovery Resources' Bronze Key Gala on November 17, 2011.

Judge Carroll attended Cleveland State University, and graduated in 1974 with a bachelor's of arts degree, majoring in economics. In 1977, he earned his Juris Doctor degree from CSU's Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and was admitted to the Ohio Bar Association the same year.

Following graduation, Judge Carroll served as a law clerk to the 8th District Court of Appeals from 1977 to 1979. He then worked as an assistant county prosecutor for the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office from 1979 to 1984, and from 1979 to 1990 worked in private practice.

Judge Carroll has been the presiding judge for the Lakewood Municipal Court since 1990, and has been serving in that position for 21 years. During his tenure, Judge Carroll has been a notable advocate of the Community Work Service Program, Alcohol Awareness Program, Expedited Civil Cases Procedure, Housing Court Task Force, nigh Court Sessions and Mediation Task Force. He also supports Recovery Recourses, a nonprofit organization that helps people with mental illness, substance abuse, and other addictions, and for which he is being recognized for his support and work at their Bronze Gala.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Honorable Judge Patrick Carroll of the Lakewood Municipal Court as he is recognized at the Bronze Key Gala for his support of Recovery Resources.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2011, Universal Pre-K, to begin the process of providing universal public prekindergarten. The bill is meant to fill a gaping hole in the "No Child Left Behind Act" which requires elementary and secondary schools to meet more rigorous standards yet ignores the prekindergarten years, among the most critical years for children's brain development. My bill is particularly necessary today because legislation pending to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act solely targets K–12. My bill makes a breakthrough in elementary school education by providing the initial funding for states to encourage local school districts to add prekindergarten for children four years of age and younger, so that every child can excel. We cannot afford to continue to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass, only to later wonder why we cannot teach Johnny to read.

The bill responds both to the great needs, which are still growing, of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as new science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than previously believed. However, many parents are unable to afford the stimulating educational environment necessary to ensure optimal brain development. The bill would add prekindergarten for children four years of age or younger, similar to kindergarten programs for five-year-olds, that are now routinely available in public schools. The bill would eliminate some of the major shortcomings of unevenly available commercial day care and, importantly, would ensure children access to qualified teachers and the safe facilities of public schools.

This bill reflects what jurisdictions increasingly are trying to accomplish, but lack the leadership and the start-up funds to see through. The District of Columbia, for example, is attempting to achieve more extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve the D.C. public schools. A recent report highlighted the economic benefits of early childhood education, emphasizing its role in expanding job opportunities and in decreasing the amount of money spent on programs to address teen pregnancy, crime, and the like.

The bill encourages school districts across the country to apply to the U.S. Department of Education for grants to establish prekindergarten. Grants under Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act would be available for educational activities for children four years of age or younger to public school systems that agree to phase in, where possible, a prekindergarten program that is taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar guidelines to those in other grades in the school system.

The success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandates the expansion of early childhood education to all children. Traditionally, early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to low-income families in programs such as Head Start. My bill provides a practical way to gradually move to universal public preschool education. The goal of the bill is to afford the great majority of the American working poor, lower-middle-class, and middle-class families, most of whom have been left out, with the benefits of early childhood education.

Considering the staggering cost of daycare, the inaccessibility of early childhood education, and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances in life, schooling for three- and four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. ANGELA MERICI SCHOOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Saint Angela Merici School, a recipient of a Federal Blue Ribbon Award.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a program designed to highlight schools which have proven records of academic excellence. These schools have demonstrated a dedication to their student bodies which prepare their students for higher education and life beyond the classroom. Such institutions serve as examples to be emulated in schools across the nation.

The Saint Angela Merici School is one of 305 schools in the nation to be awarded the title of a Blue Ribbon school. The school is located in Fairview Park, Ohio and enrolls 520 students from pre-Kindergarten to Eighth grade. The school was founded in 1923, and is a Roman Catholic school in the Saint Angela Merici Parish.

The Saint Angela Merici School has a strong academic focus and high standardized test scores that exceed the national average. In 2010, the entire eight grade class was in the top fifteen percentile in reading and mathematics, and a majority of the class placed in the top tenth percentile. The rest of the school scored above the eighty-sixth percentile.

The school provides a broad curriculum, with religious studies, world languages,

wellness programs and performing arts as well as mathematics, sciences, social studies, English and technology. The vast range of curriculum in the school follows from the goal of the school, to help the students achieve the highest standards of academic excellence.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me recognition of Saint Angela Merici School, a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING THE MORRIS FAMILY AS THE 2011 WASHINGTON COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to recognize the Jerry Morris family for being selected as the 2011 Washington County, Florida Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

Jerry, son of Arvel and Ethel Morris and one of nine children, is a fourth generation farmer. He found his passion for love and farming in the middle of cotton country of Cherokee County in northeast Alabama along the Coosa River. In 1981, Jerry moved to Florida and bought a farm south of Chipley. It was here, where he found his second and most important love, Lynell Kellum, a local farm girl from Jackson County who he married in 1989.

Just north of Chipley, Lynell grew up and learned to drive a tractor pulling watermelon wagons through the field and fed the family's livestock. After working at the Bank of Jackson County for 39 years, she now enjoys farming with Jerry full time, along with cooking and canning, making jelly and sewing.

Jerry and Lynell both work hard to embrace new technologies, new varieties and better production practices. After becoming interested in no-till planting, they bought a rip-strip planter. It proved to be successful for planting corn and soybeans. This method prevented erosion and left ground cover to hold moisture. They started planting twin-row peanuts 10 years ago and made better production. They found this to be successful and implemented planting his soybeans in twin-rows.

Just this year, they planted 239 acres of peanuts, 128 acres of corn, and 234 acres of soybeans. Jerry has become known as one of the top corn producers in Washington County.

Aside from the farm and their love for the outdoors, Jerry and Lynell are members of the Washington and Florida Cattlemen's Association, Florida Peanut Producers Association, and enjoy spending time singing in the choir at Piney Grove Freewill Baptist Church and spending time with their family. Jerry and Lynell have four gown children and five grandchildren: Alan Kellum and wife Diane, who have two sons live in Nicholasville, Kentucky; Amy Hatcher, husband, Clint, and son, Logan, of Wicksburg, Alabama; Ladonna Kellum of Graceville, Florida; and Saranda Headland and husband, Austin, who have two daughters and live in Dothan, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, our great nation was built by farmers and their families. The Washington County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year award is a reflection of the Morris family's tireless work and love of farming. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Morris family for this great accomplishment. My wife Vicki and I wish them the best for continued success.

HUIZENGA AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2838

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express concerns with the Huizenga amendment to H.R. 2838 and my fear that it could result in great damage to the efforts underway here in Congress to protect the Great Lakes from the many threats it faces, including invasive species and pollution.

There is no question that addressing the invasive species in ballast water is needed to protect the Great Lakes and other water bodies from these aggressive nonnative species that can destroy the natural ecosystem. Once these species are introduced, the costs to the environment and taxpayers only grow. Just look at the costs to the Great Lake states and the federal government to fight the sea lamprey and the current battle to keep the Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. A strong federal ballast water treatment standard protects both the environment and the taxpayer.

We know ballast water is a primary vector for the introduction of invasive species. The bill before us would set a needed national ballast water treatment standard to protect our nation's waters. However, the Huizenga amendment would create one large loophole that would allow "historic" vessels to be excluded from complying with the new standards.

No science has been put forward to this body showing that these vessels—because of their historic nature—are not an avenue of introduction for aquatic invasive species. We should be less concerned about the historic nature of the vessel and more about the potential menace caused by hitchhikers in their ballast water. I don't have a problem with recognizing history or historic vessels. I just have a problem with absolving them from making efforts to prevent a historic invasion of nonnative species.

Invasive species do not care about the character of the vessel through which they are brought into the Great Lakes and neither should any national ballast water treatment standard. I note the recent editorial by the Chicago Tribune about the failings of this amendment.

I urge my colleagues to work to make sure that this amendment is not included in a final bill as it would undermine long needed efforts to create a strong and effective national ballast water standard and ensure strong protections for our nation's bodies of water, including the Great Lakes.

[From chicagotribune.com, Nov. 15, 2011]

SINK THE BADGER (PROPOSAL)

Every day from May to October, the SS Badger, the last coal-powered steamship on the Great Lakes, ferries cars and tourists across Lake Michigan on a picturesque four-hour journey from Manitowoc, Wis. to Ludington, Mich.

Along the way, it leaves a souvenir in the lake: a total of about 509 tons of toxic coal ash, laced with arsenic, lead and mercury over a 134-day operating schedule. That's far more pollution than all the other 125 freighters plying the Great Lakes collectively leave in a full year, according to Coast Guard records.

In 2008, the U.S. EPA set a four-year deadline for the Badger's owners to sharply limit its pollution, the Tribune's Michael Hawthorne recently reported. Didn't happen. Instead, the Badger now is one step away from being protected—in all its polluting glory,—as a National Historic Landmark. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar must decide.

Hmmm. Let's see here. The Badger had four years to clean up. It failed to secure a $14 million federal grant to convert its engines to diesel. Now it argues that those engines are a ''historic propulsion system,'' so precious as artifacts that they should be protected from the EPA.

The 410-foot ferry wants to join the rarefied world of protected nautical national treasures, joining The Potomac, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's yacht, and the Nautilus, the world's first atomic-powered submarine.

We say, sure, drape the Badger in the cloak of treasured icons—provided it becomes a museum for tourists to tromp through, docked forever in a harbor.

''We cannot let Historic Landmark status be used to evade the federal regulations we rely on to protect public health and the environment,'' U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin recently wrote to Salazar. ''This Great Lake cannot take any more toxic dumping, no matter how historic or quaint the source may be.''

Exactly right.

The Badger pollutes the lake every time it makes the 60-mile crossing. A Badger spokesman tells us the ship's owners are exploring the possibility of converting its engines to run on cleaner natural gas. That would be an excellent move, but it is far from certain.

Republican U.S. Reps. Bill Huizenga and Dan Benishek, of Michigan, and Tom Petri, of Wisconsin, recently added an amendment to the Coast Guard budget that would prevent the EPA from imposing more stringent pollution limits on any ship that is ''on, or nominated for inclusion on'' the list of national landmarks. Guess how many ships fit that criteria? Just one. This is classic special-interest legislation that benefits a few at the expense of everyone else.

The answer here can't be a shrug over polluting the lake, the region's most precious natural resource. That was the way of the world in the early 1950s, when the Badger first started sailing Lake Michigan. That's not acceptable now.

The Badger, as Durbin says, was ''quaint'' back then. Today, it just fouls the water.

IN HONOR OF MRS. RUBY L. TERRY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Ruby L. Terry as she retires from the United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland, Inc. (UBF) where she served as the Executive Director for 19 years.

Established in 1981, by George W. White, the United Black Fund was the result of the merger of the Negro Community Federation and Blacks Organized for Social Services. The

UBF is a non-profit charitable organization that funds more than 80 non-profits annually that serve thousands of poor, Black and other minority children, families and seniors. In addition to funding, UBF provides free of charge of grantsmanship, workshops, and informational forums to the public. The mission statement of the UBF is to acquire, accumulate, and allocate funds to not-for-profits to alleviate suffering, poverty and illiteracy; strengthen the tradition and ethic of giving among African Americans to promote economic self-sufficiency; empower the African American Community through education to reach its highest potential; educate the African American Community to understand the value of re-directing income to build wealth within the African American Community.

Prior to becoming UBF's Executive Director in 1992, Mrs. Terry served as the UBF's Board Chair for 15 years. Under her direction, the UBF underwent several changes to become a stronger organization. She created a new board of directors, implemented the first Strategic Plan, and organized new events to increase funds. She began the UBF's annual Anniversary Gala and the UBF/Cleveland Browns Alumni Celebrity Golf Tournament. Additionally, she formed partnerships with many Cleveland organizations including the Cleveland Indians. It was also under Mrs. Terry's leadership that the UBF obtained Federation status with United Way Services of Greater Cleveland, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, join me in honoring Mrs. Ruby L. Terry and congratulate her on retiring after decades of serving the African American community of Greater Cleveland.

ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF SHARING AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY WITH CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share testimony that I gave earlier this month to the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations regarding the economic, security and moral consequences of sharing advanced technology with China.

HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE—''EFFORTS TO TRANSFER AMERICA'S LEADING EDGE SCIENCE TO CHINA''—TESTIMONY OF CONGRESSMAN FRANK R. WOLF (R–VA), WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2010

Thank you Chairman Rohrabacher for calling this important hearing on China's espionage and the violation of the law by the director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

I have been very troubled by this administration's apparent eagerness to work with China on its space program and willingness to share other sensitive technologies. I want to be clear: the United States has no business cooperating with the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) to help develop its space program. We should also be wary of any agreements that involve the transfer of technology or sensitive information to Chinese institutions or companies—many of which are controlled by the government and the PLA.

Space is the ultimate ''high ground'' that has provided the U.S. with countless security and economic advantages over the last 40 years. As the victor of the Cold War ''space race'' with the Soviet Union, the U.S. has held an enormous advantage in space technology, defense capabilities, and advanced sciences—generating entirely new sectors of our economy and creating thousands of private sector jobs.

China has developed its own space program at a surprising pace, having gone from launching their first manned spacecraft to launching components for an advanced space station in just ten years.

But the Chinese space program is being led by the People's Liberation Army (PLA)—and to state the obvious, the PLA is not our friend as evidenced by their recent military posture and aggressive espionage against U.S. agencies and firms.

That is why I was troubled to learn from the press last fall about NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden's imminent departure for a weeklong visit to China to discuss areas of cooperation between NASA and the PLA space program. I was equally concerned to learn that Dr. John Holdren, head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), had spent 21 days in China on 3 separate trips in one year—more than any other country. Very little information about these cooperative agreements with China were being provided to Congress and the American people.

So, I included language in section 1340 of the Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution preventing NASA and OSTP from using federal funds ''to develop, design, plan, promulgate, implement or execute a bilateral policy, program, order, or contract of any kind to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company.''

The provision in the omnibus appropriations bill was agreed to by Republican and Democrat conferees. It passed both houses with bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Obama in April. The provision was clear, unambiguous and non-controversial.

However, less than one month after its enactment, I learned that Dr. Holdren and OSTP had defied the provision. Even more troubling is that he withheld information about his intention to do so during his appearance before the House Commerce-Justice Science Appropriations Subcommittee when we discussed, among other things, the implementation of section 1340, and Dr. Holdren's participation in the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue, from May 6–10.

That is why I asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate this violation and issue an opinion. I also asked GAO to determine whether the Office of Legal Counsel opinion provided by the Justice Department to justify this violation was legitimate.

In its October 11 opinion, GAO found, ''The plain meaning of section 1340 is clear. OSTP may not use its appropriations to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned companies.''

Further, GAO found that, ''OSTP's participation in the Innovation Dialogue and S&ED contravened the appropriations restriction,'' and added that, ''OSTP does not deny that it engaged in activities prohibited by section 1340.''

The GAO finding also rebuts a September 19 memorandum prepared by the Justice Department's OLC on the constitutionality of the provision. GAO stated, ''In our view, legislation that was passed by Congress and signed by the President, thereby satisfying the Constitution's bicameralism and presentment requirements, is entitled to a heavy presumption in favor of constitutionality.'' GAO continued, ''Determining the constitutionality of legislation is a province of the courts,''—not, I would add, the White House counsel's office or the Department of Justice.

Finally, the GAO finding clearly notes, ''As a consequence of using its appropriations in violation of section 1340, OSTP violated the Antideficiency Act. . . By using its fiscal year 2011 appropriation in a manner specifically prohibited, OSTP violated the Antideficiency Act. Accordingly, OSTP should report the violation as required by the act.''

I also wrote Attorney General Eric Holder asking him to hold Dr. Holdren to full account for his violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act by ensuring that he complies with all reporting requirements and other provisions of that law.

I take the GAO findings very seriously. Following the law is not voluntary for Administration officials. That is why Dr. Holdren should commit today to full compliance with section 1340 and publicly acknowledge his error in participating in the bilateral conference with the Chinese government.

Now I'd like to take a few minutes to put the administration's posture toward China in the broader context of the Chinese government's grave human rights abuses, espionage efforts and detrimental economic policies.

In June 1989 peaceful pro-democracy demonstrators gathered in Tiananmen Square. They were met with a brutal crackdown. As events unfolded, the world was captivated with the now famous image of the ''Tank Man'' . . . a lone student protestor who stood his ground in the face of an advancing Chinese tank. To this day his fate is unknown.

During my first trip to China in 1991, with Congressman Chris Smith, we visited Beijing Prison Number One where authorities informed us that approximately 40 Tiananmen Square protestors were behind bars. We left with a pair of socks, made by the prisoners, for export to the West.

Tellingly, the image of the ''Tank Man'', while famous around the globe, is virtually unknown within China thanks to the Great Firewall which censors so-called ''offensive'' speech. It is estimated that China employs between 30,000 and 50,000 special Internet police.

Shockingly, the country has a thriving business of harvesting and selling for transplant kidneys, corneas and other human organs from executed prisoners. An August 27, 2009 Los Angeles Times article reported, ''In a rare acknowledgment of a practice that has until recently been shrouded in secrecy, the state-run newspaper said 65% of organ donors were executed prisoners . . .'' The image here, from a 1994 BBC story, is of PLA officers preparing to execute prisoners—China leads the world in executions. Later footage from the same story captures an unmarked van driving toward the prison to harvest the organs from the executed prisoners and transport them to a local hospital.

Like many repressive regimes throughout history, the Chinese government maintains a brutal system of labor camps. The State Department's annual human rights report found that, ''Forced labor remained a serious problem . . .''

Famed Chinese dissident Harry Wu spent nearly 20 years in Chinese gulags. In Congressional testimony earlier this year, Wu said, ''When I finally came to the U.S. in 1985, although I was already 48 years old, that was the first time in my life that I felt truly free.'' He concluded by urging ''President Obama and the U.S. Congress to be bold and take a firm stand against China's human rights abuses.''

But boldness is hardly the order of the day when it comes to U.S. policy. The same could be said of some U.S. companies.

In 2006, Congressman Chris Smith and the late Congressman Tom Lantos, himself a Holocaust survivor, convened a hearing in which they publicly challenged the Internet giant Yahoo! to look beyond the bottom line, and consider the moral implications of their complicity in imprisoning Chinese dissidents.

New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof authored a piece after the hearing writing, ''Suppose that Anne Frank had maintained an e-mail account while in hiding in 1944, and that the Nazis had asked Yahoo for cooperation in tracking her down. It seems, based on Yahoo's behavior in China, that it might have complied.''

Yahoo isn't the only U.S. company to come under fire for pursuing business interests at the expense of human rights. A May 22 New York Times article, reported that Cisco, ''customized its technology to help China track members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement . . .'' There are multiple suits pending against Cisco.

These allegations reflect a worrying trend. American companies ought to represent American values. Instead, it seems that time and again major U.S. corporations are embracing Chinese government policies that are completely at odds with what America represents.

China, in turn, exports its repressive technologies to likeminded governments. An October 27, Wall Street Journal piece reported that the Chinese telecom giant Huawei ''now dominates Iran's government-controlled mobile-phone industry . . . , it plays a role in enabling Iran's state security network.''

It seems that not only is the U.S. failing to change China, but rather, China is changing us.

Is it any surprise considering what China is spending on high-powered lobbying firms in this town?

According to a January 9 Washington Post story, in recent years China has, ''tripled the amount it spends on lobbying firms . . .'' But well-heeled lobbyists can't explain away China's abysmal human rights record.

Thousands of political and religious prisoners languish in prison.

According to the Cardinal Kung Foundation, currently every one of the approximately 25 underground bishops of the Catholic Church is either in jail, under house arrest, under strict surveillance, or in hiding.

Protestant house church pastors are routinely intimidated and imprisoned. The recently released annual report of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China found the government placed 500 members of the Shouwang Church under ''soft detention'' between the fall of 2010 and the fall of 2011.

David Aikman, former Beijing bureau chief for TIME magazine, authored a piece noting: ''The crackdown on Christians is part of a rising tide of repression against dissent that's often accompanied by interrogations and torture.''

Since March, 10 Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns have set themselves aflame in desperation at the abuses suffered by their people. One such nun is pictured here. Recently cameramen smuggled out video footage, still frame shot here, of Chinese police in full riot gear carrying automatic rifles and iron bars outside of the monastery where several of the self-immolations occurred.

Rebiya Kadeer—a fearless advocate for the Uyghur Muslims in China—spent two years in solitary confinement before being exiled to the U.S. in 2005. Following her release, two of her sons were unjustly arrested and subsequently sentenced to lengthy prison terms. Chinese authorities continue to use Rebiya's children and grandchildren as pawns in an effort to silence her.

We have seen that the Chinese government is unmoved and in fact emboldened in its ongoing repression while at the same time experiencing explosive economic growth.

We have seen our own short-sightedness in making the protection of basic liberties and the advancement of rule of law secondary to unfettered market access and normal trade relations.

These flawed policies have strengthened the oppressors and enabled China to advance economically at our expense. Every Member here represents constituents whose very livelihood has been negatively affected by China's blatant economic espionage and predatory, protectionist and illegal practices.

Meanwhile, U.S. companies are increasingly sending American jobs to China. General Electric's health-care unit recently announced it was moving the headquarters of 115-year-old X-ray business to Beijing. Ironically, the head of President Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness is GE Chairman Jeffrey Immelt.

According to a March 24 New York Times article, GE paid zero taxes in the U.S. in 2010. Meanwhile, the Congressional Research Service found that the Chinese State Tax Administration and China Tax magazine jointly released a number of lists of the top taxpayers in 2007 and GE featured prominently. The Beijing subsidiary of GE was number 32 on the top 100 taxpaying firms in the commercial services sector. It is noteworthy that GE, which pays no federal taxes in its home country, is honored for being a significant source of tax revenue to China.

Our engagement with China has not only empowered the government, failed to change their political system and undermined our economic security it has fueled China's military apparatus. Again, the president's ''jobs czar,'' Jeffrey Immelt, is at the center of these concerns.

An October 28 Defense News piece reported that, ''U.S. aerospace companies may unknowingly be helping China's military, according to a rough draft of the annual report on China's military modernization by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, to be released in November.'' Specifically the article pointed to, ''last January's announcement by General Electric and the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) that they would launch a joint venture for integrated avionics'' and cited the Commission's soon to be released report which indicated that China, ''has a robust, largely military space program..'' with all but 13 of its roughly 70 satellites in orbit controlled by the military.

A May 17 article in Wired.com reported that Chinese troops have begun using a first-person-shooter video game, ''Glorious Mission,'' backed by the PLA, which stimulates basic training in which the enemy is apparently the U.S. military.

An April 11, Aviation Week article reported, ''The PLA has made great strides toward implementing a strategy . . . to deter or defeat U.S. forces in the Western Pacific.''

The 2010 annual Pentagon report cited earlier, found '' . . . In the case of key national security technologies, controlled equipment, and other materials not readily obtainable through commercial means or academia, the PRC resorts to more focused efforts, including the use of its intelligence services and other-than legal means, in violation of U.S. laws and export controls.''

Let's be perfectly clear about how China is advancing militarily: they are utilizing ''other than legal means.''

The report also highlighted China's cyber-espionage efforts. The U.S. intelligence community notes that China's attempts to penetrate U.S. agencies are the most aggressive of all foreign intelligence organizations. According to a 2008 FBI statement, Chinese intelligence services ''pose a significant threat both to the national security and to the compromise of U.S. critical national assets.''

Their espionage isn't limited to government agencies. In an October 4 Washington Post article, Rep. Mike Rogers, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, remarked, ''When you talk to these companies behind closed doors . . . they describe attacks that originate in China, and have a level of sophistication and are clearly supported by a level of resources that can only be a nation-state entity.''

These breaches in our national security infrastructure are rampant and pose a very real threat. A May 14 Reuters story indicated that, ''North Korea and Iran appear to have been regularly exchanging ballistic missile technology in violation of U.N. sanctions, according to a confidential U.N. report . . . The report said the illicit technology transfers had 'trans-shipment through a neighboring third country.' That country was China, several diplomats told Reuters on condition of anonymity.''

China is also a major arms supplier and source of economic strength to the regime in Khartoum. According to Human Rights First, during the years of the worst violence in Darfur ''. . . China sold over $55 million worth of small arms to Khartoum.'' I was part of the first Congressional delegation to Darfur. I heard the stories of rape, killing and displacement. America provided humanitarian supplies to the victims, while China provided arms to the perpetrators.

Meanwhile, Beijing rolled out the red carpet this year for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, an internationally indicted war criminal. Bashir's crimes are not just a thing of the past. The current assault by northern Sudanese forces in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states has displaced thousands. There are credible news reports of targeted ethnic killings and satellite images of what appear to be mass graves.

Speaking of red carpet, President Obama, the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize winner, welcomed Chinese President Hu Jintao with a State Dinner in January at the same time that 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, languished behind bars. Meanwhile, the Dalai Lama was initially denied a meeting with President Obama and then in February 2010 was made to leave the White House through the back door to avoid press.

In closing, there will come a day when the Chinese communist government will fall—repressive, totalitarian regimes always do. And when that day comes, books will be written about who helped sustain this government in their final days. Will U.S. companies feature in that narrative? Will the U.S. government?

In 2001, a book was published titled, ''IBM and the Holocaust.'' A New York Times book review describes how IBM had ''global control of a technology that was enormously helpful, indeed indispensable, to the Nazi machinery of war and annihilation.'' The Times review quotes the author of the book as saying that many companies did what IBM did. They ''refused to walk away from the extraordinary profits obtainable from trading with a pariah state . . .''

Arguably that assessment rings true today. Only the pariah state has changed.

Those in positions of leadership, be they in the private sector or in government, do our country a disservice when they gloss over or ignore the actions of the Chinese government. They put us squarely on the wrong side of history.

The Chinese government brutally represses its own people. It persecutes people of faith. It censors the Internet. It maintains labor camps.

The Chinese government actively engages in cyber-espionage. It steals state secrets. It aligns itself with countries directly at odds with U.S. interests. It supports genocidal governments and buttresses rogue regimes.

There's a legal term, ''willful blindness,'' that aptly described our dealings to date with China. Faced with these painful truths, blindness is no longer an option.

In the words of British abolitionist, William Wilberforce, ''Having heard all of this, you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say that you did not know.''

HONORING TERESA HUGHES

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Teresa Hughes, former California State Senator and Assemblywoman from the Los Angeles area, who passed away on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at the age of 80. As the second black woman elected to the Assembly, Ms. Hughes proved to be an influential lawmaker, breaking barriers and proving to most leaders that it is necessary to have women in significant leadership roles because their constituents demand it.

A former New York social worker, teacher and school administrator, Ms. Hughes was a fervent supporter of education. Her candidacy for the 47th Assembly District in California, which included a large part of South L.A. and the cities of Bell, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Downey and Compton, came with much support because the constituents wanted to elect a professional educator committed to expanding educational opportunities for their community.

Ms. Hughes' accomplishments as a state legislator are many. During her 17 years in the California State Assembly, she authored a bill dedicating $800 million in bond money to build school classrooms as well as the creation of a state School of the Arts. In 1983, as chairwoman of the Assembly Education Committee, she co-authored an education bill setting state graduation standards, lengthening school days and the school year, raising teacher salaries and standards, and requiring prospective teachers to pass a basic skills test. Ms. Hughes also authored the bill that established the California Museum of Afro-American History and Culture within the Museum of Science and Industry in Los Angeles.

There were 15 women state lawmakers in 1985 when the Joint Rules Committee formally recognized the new bipartisan Caucus of Women Legislators. As the senior woman in the Assembly at the time, Ms. Hughes was selected to chair the caucus.

Elected to the state Senate in 1992, Hughes represented the 25th District, which stretched from Marina del Rey to Paramount.

Before she retired in 2000, she became the first woman and first African American to serve on the Senate Rules Committee.

Her State Senate achievements include establishing the Senate Select Committee on College Admission and Outreach and writing a school violence prevention bill that led to the creation of the Task Force on School Safety.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in remembrance of Teresa Hughes, a towering figure in the history of California. I ask my colleagues to join me for a moment of silence in the memory of the great Teresa Hughes.

IN RECOGNITION OF KENSINGTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kensington Intermediate School, a recipient of a Federal Blue Ribbon Award.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a program designed to highlight schools which have proven records of academic excellence. These schools have demonstrated a dedication to their student bodies which prepare their students for higher education and life beyond the classroom. Such institutions serve as examples to be emulated in schools across the nation.

Kensington Intermediate School is one of 305 schools in the nation to be awarded the title of a Blue Ribbon school. It has shown itself to be among this group of elite institutions. In 2010, Kensington was named Excellent with Distinction, which is the Ohio Department of Education's highest award. Last year, the school system ranked 5th in Cleveland Magazine's prestigious Top Ten List of Cleveland Area Schools.

Kensington has continued on its path of academic excellence by scoring 96.5% and 92.5% proficiency in the Ohio 5th grade Science and Math Achievement Assessment tests, respectively. The 3rd grade Reading Achievement Assessment score has repeatedly been the highest in the county.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Kensington Intermediate School, a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School.

HONORING TOWN CLERK RUTH ARGO MAZZEI

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ruth Argo Mazzei of Southeast, New York for her service as Town Clerk for the past 20 years.

Mrs. Mazzei was first elected to serve the people of Southeast as Town Clerk in November of 1991. Certified as both an International Municipal Clerk and New York State Registered Municipal Clerk, Mrs. Mazzei has served the residents of Southeast with honor and integrity. She is known for her love of her community and her loyalty to friends and family. Mrs. Mazzei and her husband of 44 years, Joseph Mazzei, have four sons: T.J., Christopher, Michael, and Robert.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the Honorable Ruth Argo Mazzei. As the face of Southeast Town Government and Town Hall for over two decades, the residents of Southeast and New York's Nineteenth Congressional District are fortunate to have benefited from her service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND CHIEF OF THE NAVY'S BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY, VICE ADMIRAL ADAM M. ROBINSON, JR.'S 34 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Vice Admiral Adam M. Robinson, Jr. for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America as the 36th Surgeon General of the United States Navy and Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Vice Admiral Robinson will retire as the Senior Healthcare Officer in the United States Navy and the principle medical advisor to the Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations and Commandant of the Marine Corps. His military service spans across more than three decades of active military duty to the United States Navy and the Nation.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Vice Admiral Robinson was commissioned into the Navy through the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program after graduating with a Doctor of Medicine degree from Indiana University, School of Medicine. In 1978, Vice Admiral Robinson was assigned to the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda for the very first time of many in his superb career. While assigned there he completed his residency in the area of general surgery. After his assignment in Bethesda, Vice Admiral Robinson was forward deployed to the United States Naval Hospital in Yokosuka, Japan. He was then selected as a ship's Surgeon on the USS *Midway* during his first duty at sea. After completing various operational assignments, Vice Admiral Robinson attended the University of Illinois School of Medicine, Urbana-Champaign, for a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at the Carle Foundation Hospital. After his fellowship he was again assigned to the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda to head the Colon and Rectal Surgery Division. While at Bethesda, he was again deployed as a ship's surgeon for the USS *John F. Kennedy* and the USS *Coral Sea*.

He became a Medical Director for the first time in his career in 1994 at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth after serving and earned his Master's in Business Administration from the University of South Florida. In 1999, while serving as the Fleet Hospital Jacksonville Commanding Officer, Robinson commanded a detachment of the fleet hospital as for a medical contingent to Joint Task Force Haiti (Operation New Horizon/Uphold Democracy). In August 1999, Robinson reported to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery as the director of Readiness and was selected as the principal director, Clinical and Program Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Vice Admiral Robinson was assigned as the Commanding Officer United States Naval Hospital, Yokosuka, Japan from September 2001 to January 2004. In July 2004, he returned to the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda as the Commander. In 2007 Vice Admiral James A. Robinson was

chosen as the 36th Surgeon General of the United States Navy and 40th Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

An accomplished and published academic, Vice Admiral Robinson holds fellowships in the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery. He is a member of the Le Societe Internationale de Chirurgie, the Society of Black Academic Surgeons, and the National Business School Scholastic Society, Beta Gamma Sigma. He holds certification as a Certified Physician Executive (CPE) from the American College of Physician Executives.

Vice Admiral Robinson has been instrumental in preparing the United States Navy for the merger of the National Capitol Region's major health care facilities. He oversaw the planning, construction and execution of the new Joint Medical Facility and ensured that best practices of the Navy and other services were preserved throughout the transition. Vice Admiral Robinson was also never afraid to be an outspoken opponent of policies and issues from the merger that would sacrifice care for Service Members of any service. Without his foresight and wisdom throughout the process, the new National Military Medical Center at Bethesda would not be the shining medical facility model it is today for our Service Men and Women and their Families.

Throughout his career, Vice Admiral Robinson has demonstrated expertise in medicine that ranks him among the very best in the world. However, I would say his most shining achievements have been his exceptional care for our Nation's most important treasure, our wounded Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, throughout the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Bethesda's renowned reputation as the gold standard of care for wounded Service Members improved throughout his tenure and will be the lasting legacy of the 36th Surgeon General of the Navy.

The United States Navy, the Department of Defense and the Nation will dearly miss one of its most respected and valued leaders as Vice Admiral Adam M. Robinson leaves active duty. We will all miss his humility, his selflessness, his candor and his integrity. When history looks back at this leader and his legacy it will be clear that he saved countless Service Members lives with his policies and daily practices.

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

H.R. 2838, THE ''COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2011''

HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2838, ''the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011,'' and to salute the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard for their service to our nation.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee and the Armed Services Committee, I recognize the critical role the Coast Guard plays in combating piracy, interdicting illegal drugs, preventing acts of terrorism, and assisting our coastal communities when they are afflicted by natural disasters. That is why I am saddened that controversial provisions were attached to this bill.

I cannot support this legislation because it would strip New York State of its right to protect itself from invasive species introduced through ballast water, putting New Yorkers and New York State waters at risk.

My home state is blessed to sit on two Great Lakes: Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. These waters are of critical importance to the Western New York economy and support recreation jobs, fishing jobs, tourism jobs, shipping jobs—jobs at our ports, harbors and canals. The people of New York are all too aware of the havoc that invasive species like Asian Carp and Zebra Mussels can wreak on the Great Lakes and the threat they pose to our economy. That is why I oppose this legislation and urge my colleagues to preserve New York's right to protect our citizens, protect our waters and protect our jobs.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN LATINO MUSEUM ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce with Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (FL–18) the Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act—a companion bill that is also being introduced today in the U.S. Senate by our colleagues Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ (NJ), Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID (NV) and Senator MARCO RUBIO (FL).

The Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act we introduce today advances the work of the National Museum the American Latino Commission—a 23–member bi-partisan, congressionally authorized commission of experts that investigated the potential creation of a museum. Through an exhaustive process that involved consultations with national experts, forums in eight cities (Chicago, Albuquerque, Austin, Miami, St. Paul, Los Angeles, New York City, and San Juan, Puerto Rico), and communication via several online platforms that engaged tens of thousan supporters, the commission generated valuable input regarding the feasibility of an American Latino museum Washington, D.C.

Over the past eighteen years the call has grown stronger and stronger to establish such a museum on our National Mall that shares the rich and full story of what it means to be an American. The effort to create the American Latino Museum dates back to 1993, when a Smithsonian Task Force on Latino Issues formally called for the creation of a national museum dedicated to sharing the story of Latinos' historic, cultural and artistic contributions to the U.S. I was proud to introduce the legislation in 2003 that created the National Museum of the American Latino Commission. Five years later, in 2008, Congress passed the bill and it was signed by President George W. Bush. Once appointed by Congress and President Barack Obama, the Commission began its work in 2009 with the support of the Department of Interior and Secretary Ken Salazar. The Commission's final 2011 report and recommendations can be viewed at http://www.americanlatinomuseum.gov.

The bill we are introducing responds to the Commission's call for the creation of a national museum in Washington, D.C. that ''illuminates the American story for the benefit of all'' by preserving, presenting and interpreting American Latino history, art, cultural expressions, and experiences. Specifically, the bill:

(1) Establishes within the Smithsonian Institution a museum to be known as the ''Smithsonian American Latino Museum.''

(2) Designates the museum's site as the Arts and Industries Building on the National Mall, at 900 Jefferson Drive Southwest in Washington, D.C.

(3) Authorizes the Smithsonian Board of Regents to prepare a plan of action for the museum, as referred to in the May 2011 Report to Congress submitted by the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino, in consultation with the Secretary of Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission and federal and local agencies.

(4) Authorizes the Regents to identify and evaluate viable funding models for both the construction and operation of the museum, within 18 months after the bill is enacted.

(5) Authorizes the Regents and Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement that allows for the planning design and construction of an underground annex facility, in a manner harmonious with and to protect the open space and visual sightlines of the Mall.

Today marks a key moment in our effort to ensure that the contributions of Americans of Latino descent receive respect and recognition earned by a patriotic community of Americans who have served this nation since its inception and now number over 50 million. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and to supporting the Smithsonian Institution in an important new chapter of its work to increase understanding of the American experience.

STANDING AGAINST VOTER SUPPRESSION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, voter suppression efforts are well are underway in my home state of Colorado. In September, the Colorado Secretary of State actually sued the City and County of Denver because the Clerk and Recorder's office over sending election ballots to every registered voter in Denver, including inactive registered voting men and women of the military and citizens living overseas. Our Secretary of State took exception because the law states ballots shall be mailed to all active registered electors. Last month, a Denver judge ruled that Denver County could in fact

send these ballots to all registered voters for the upcoming November election, but officers at the highest levels of our state government have indicated they will continue in their attempts to limit the participation of any legal voter in our community.

Unfortunately as it stands already, just more than half of eligible voters in the United States show up to make themselves heard during Presidential election years. That percentage dips into the thirties in so called ''off years.'' The last thing we need in America is fewer people voting. With 14 million Americans looking for work, and millions more struggling as a result of a growing wage gap, the problems facing this country are profound and complex, and addressing them will require a broad range of voices.

All of us bear the responsibility for encouraging voter turnout—especially in traditionally disenfranchised areas. Voting is the most effective way to drown out the influence of corporate campaign donations and the unaccountable and unwieldy super political action committees, which can raise unlimited sums of money to pour into our elections. Voting is the most effective way to be heard on the issues impacting our nation. For too many Americans, the right to vote did not come easy and many of us recognize the perilous consequences of not guarding this right aggressively.

In 1964, Chief Justice Earl Warren expressed one of the basic truths of American history, that ''the right of suffrage is a fundamental matter in a free and democratic society.'' Efforts to suppress the democratic right to vote in pursuit of electoral gain are both misguided and unconstitutional, and I will continue to fight at the federal level to ensure every American, regardless of race, income, or heritage will have the opportunity to participate in the ''fundamental matter in a free and democratic society.''

THE SENSIBLE ESTATE TAX OF 2011

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sensible Estate Tax Act of 2011. This legislation offers a thoughtful comprehensive approach to reforming our estate tax system that is supported by voters across all income levels. As America comes out of one of the worst recessions in its history, this Congress must carefully consider all sources of revenue that are not only effective, but fair and equitable. This estate tax embodies those values.

The past decade of failed tax policies have killed jobs and resulted in significant income and wealth disparity in this country. The promise and strength of America lies in a system that benefits everyone. These tax policies have steered us away from this promise and crippled the American economy. The middle class continues to shrink as more and more wealth flows to the top—and this country's current tax system makes this unfairness worse. The current estate tax policy is the poster child for the unfairness we all see.

That is why I am introducing this legislation. This bill will bring the estate tax back to the rates and exemptions from before the Bush tax cuts—a time when this country experienced continued prosperity and budget surpluses.

Specifically, the Sensible Estate Tax Act of 2011 will return the top marginal rate to 55 percent and lower the exemption for individuals to $1 million. It will also reunify the gift and estate taxes, and provide for permanent portability of any unused exemption. Accountants and taxpayers have been asking Congress for a permanent and fair estate tax so they may properly plan their affairs. This bill does just that. Additional estate tax loopholes are also addressed, including a 10-year minimum on grantor retained annuity trusts, limitations on the generation skipping transfer trust exemption, and rules for consistent basis reporting.

Today's law allows for up to $10 million in wealth to be transferred tax-free at death. And some of my colleagues across the aisle say even that is not enough. In a country that cherished the ideal that where you are born should not determine where you end up, it is inherently unfair that the average middle class family pays income tax while the children of rich parents can inherit $10 million tax-free.

Succeeding financially in life is a wonderful American right and the families of wealthy people should benefit from that good fortune. But no one gets wealthy on their own—financial success for any American is achieved by using the roads, schools, and public services that all Americans pay for. It is only fair that they reinvest in the country that provided them with so much opportunity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like the record to show that, due to an error, I voted ''aye'' on H.R. 822, the ''National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act,'' (rollcall vote No. 852) when I intended to vote ''no.'' I would also like the record to show that I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall No. 849.

Coming from Illinois, a state that does not issue permits to carry concealed weapons, I understand the importance of allowing each state and locality to determine what gun policy is most appropriate for them. From 1999–2006, 9,054 residents of Illinois were killed by gun violence. These numbers are jarring and, when faced with escalating gun violence in the city of Chicago, I simply cannot support efforts to erode and circumvent tough state gun laws.

The ''National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act'' would preempt state laws by forcing states to accept permits to carry concealed weapons from other states regardless of any differences in safety standards or requirements to obtain the permit. In other words, Indiana, which prohibits individuals with certain dangerous criminal misdemeanor convictions from carrying concealed weapons, would be forced to allow permit holders from states without that requirement to carry concealed weapons within the state. In addition, it would be virtually impossible for a law enforcement officer to determine if an out-of-state permit was validly issued, creating more danger and uncertainty for our officers.

I fear that, if this bill were enacted, it would put law enforcement officers and our communities at great risk while simultaneously eroding the authority of the states to dictate their own rules in the gun permitting process. I am deeply committed to ensuring that our communities are safe from the ravages of gun violence and I will ardently oppose any legislation to further erode strong state and local gun laws.