

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 some-

one 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 mem-

bers 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