

What's particularly troubling, is that at the same time as it is building its nuclear program, Iran has continued to threaten its neighbors. It has armed and funded Hezbollah and Hamas, which are dedicated to eradicating the state of Israel. In 2005, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Israel should be wiped off the face of the map. In 2008, he said: "The people of the region would not miss the narrowest opportunity to annihilate this false regime."

But Israel is not Iran's only target. In November a senior commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard threatened to bomb NATO bases in Turkey. Iran is currently threatening to close the straits of Hormuz, which will affect shipping, with particular impact on the crude oil exported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq and liquid natural gas from Qatar.

Given Iran's success in developing a nuclear program, a number of its neighbors have suggested that they may follow suit, creating further instability in the region. Earlier this month, Turki al-Faisal, who has served as the Saudi intelligence chief and as ambassador to the United States, suggested that Saudi Arabia may seek nuclear weapons. Wikileaks revealed that Egypt's leaders told U.S. officials that Egypt would acquire nuclear weapons if Iran did. This lends greater urgency to the need to persuade Iran to end its nuclear ambitions.

Nuclear weapons are particularly threatening when held by a nation whose leaders have no apparent respect for human life. Iran has an unrivaled record of human rights abuses, from the imprisonment of people of the Ba'hai faith, to the use of the death penalty against minors, to the use of torture and amputation against prisoners, to discrimination against women, to the suppression and murder of members of the democracy movement. With thousands of its citizens murdered, tortured or imprisoned, Iran's record of human rights abuses is among the worst in the world.

History shows that when dictators threaten their neighbors, there's good reason to fear. And given Iran's history of threats, its dedicated progress in enriching uranium, its evident determination to hide its nuclear program from the world and its abysmal human rights record, the world should do everything possible to hinder it from obtaining nuclear weapons.

That's why I strongly support H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act, which would implement a commonsense enhancement of existing sanctions—by providing greater options to sanction entities doing business with the Central Bank of Iran; by expanding the types petroleum-related activities that could trigger sanctions to include certain petroleum resource agreements with Iran, purchasing Iranian debt and supporting port facility construction and management; by imposing sanctions on individuals involved in human rights abuses or terrorism; by imposing sanctions on those who do business with Iran's Revolutionary Guard; by allowing states or other organizations to divest from Iran; by identifying those entities that are helping Iran evade sanctions, among other things.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in support of H.R. 1905.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rolcall 931, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN OPPOSITION OF IMPLICATIONS TO MEDICAL RESEARCH IN H.R. 1254

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a possible unintentional consequence of H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011. This legislation would add two categories of synthetic drugs to the list of Schedule I controlled substances.

While I am troubled by news reports involving these drugs and I support restrictions on the sale of these chemicals for purposes of illicit use, I am concerned about the impact the ban would impose on legitimate scientific research, including much needed medical advances.

To maintain our position in the world as the leader in the research and development of pharmaceuticals, we must ensure that researchers have access to the compounds necessary to discover and create new drugs. We cannot afford to stifle these advancements. At a time when other countries continue to make gains in medical research, we must make certain our researchers have all available means necessary to further their studies and uphold our competitive edge.

If enacted into law, should this measure hinder any progress in the arena of medical research, I would urge Congress to re-examine this issue in a way that protects public health while continuing to make much needed medical advancements possible. In the meantime, I would also urge my colleagues in the Senate to thoroughly examine this issue during any consideration of H.R. 1254 or a similar legislative proposal.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT DAVID W. PARKER

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the outstanding contributions of Chief Master Sergeant David W. Parker who recently retired after thirty-two years of service with the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing.

Chief Parker enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard on December 31, 1979, and began basic training in February, 1980. He started as an Electronic Warfare Specialist in the Electronic Counter Measures Shop in the Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

There he earned the rank of Technical Sergeant.

In 1994, Chief Parker was chosen as one of only three members of the 180th to be part of the Combined Task Force at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, where he was part of a team that provided electronic countermeasures maintenance support.

In 1995, he was promoted to Master Sergeant. In 1998, he was selected First Sergeant of the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He was named the Enlisted Association's First Sergeant of the Year in 1998 and the 180th Fighter Wing First Sergeant of the Year in both 1998 and 2004.

He became Senior Master Sergeant in 2005 and Chief Master Sergeant in 2008. In 2010 he became the NCOIC of Student Flight, a position he held until retirement.

Throughout his career, Chief Parker was deployed numerous times, including such locations as Cold Lake, Canada; Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; Balad Air Base, Iraq; and Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

Chief Parker also received copious awards during his thirty-two years of service including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon, the Ohio Commendation Medal, and the Ohio Award of Merit.

Chief Master Sergeant David W. Parker's long and distinguished career with the Ohio Air National Guard is a shining example to all who volunteer and serve. I am proud to wish him and his family every success as they move on to a new chapter in their lives.

CURBING CONGRESSIONAL BENEFITS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two more pieces of legislation to curb the benefits currently available to Members of Congress.

The first ends the automatic pay increase privilege for Members of Congress. In 1989, Congress established the current formula for automatic annual salary adjustments under the Ethics Reform Act. The formula is based on the Employment Cost Index which tracks changes in private sector wages and salaries. Unless Congress passes a law blocking it, the adjustment goes into effect automatically.

The current system is set up to allow Members of Congress to receive pay raises without having to cast recorded votes for them and that is just wrong. Requiring recorded votes on pay increases will not only make the actions of Congress more transparent but it is another step that will make Congress more accountable to the citizens who elect them.

Another benefit available to Members is lifetime eligibility for service in Congress. A lifetime of service in Congress is, I believe, far too insulating and privileged to assure us that our Representatives are firmly empathetic to and aligned with the needs of the American people. But given the significance of seniority in Congress, States that encourage their members to pledge to limit their terms voluntarily are at a disadvantage with States that

don't. I believe that the solution is to make term limits mandatory by passing a constitutional amendment that would limit the terms of Members of Congress so that everyone will be subject to the same requirement. I am introducing a proposal to do this, and limit House and Senate Member terms to 12 years.

These bills are the latest proposals of my ongoing efforts to reform Congress. In addition to chairing the Congressional Balanced Budget Amendment Caucus, and so working to take away the unlimited ability of Congress to borrow money, I introduced House Resolution 270 in January, which would cut Congressional pay by 10 percent as well as reduce Congressional office budgets. In September, I introduced House Resolution 2913, which would terminate the pension plan available to members of Congress. All of my reforms are about changing the culture of Washington, D.C. to make government work for the American people.

I urge the passage of these bills.

HONORING ERWIN J. KORCZYNSKI

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Erwin J. Korczynski, a talented pilot and patriot from Chicago, Illinois who died on January 5, 2011 of prostate cancer.

From an early age, Captain Korczynski exhibited the success and commitment to public service that would define his life. Born in 1942 to first generation Polish American parents, he achieved the rank of Life Scout for the Boy Scouts of America, lettered 6 times in Track and Field at Lane Technical High School, and was a member of the famous Chicago Cavalier Drum and Bugle Corps. He also attended Northern Illinois University and entered the priesthood at St. Ambrose Seminary in Davenport, Iowa—a calling that he would later selflessly leave to join the Marine Corps.

Even in his early years, Captain Korczynski showed a passion for aviation. From the age of 15, he and his twin brother Edwin took flying lessons and graduated with their flying licenses at the age of 18. He joined the Marine Attack Squadron, VMA 131 in 1963 during the escalation of the Vietnam War. During the course of the war, he rose to the rank of Sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1969.

Following his tenure with the Marines, Captain Korczynski flew commercial planes during the golden age of commercial aviation. Impressively, over 25,000 hours of flight time he maintained a spotless record while at Eastern Airlines and several other airlines around the world.

Using his flying talent to again serve our country, Captain Korczynski volunteered from 1990 to 1991 during the Persian Gulf War. As a pilot in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF), he flew civilian aircraft to transport troops and supplies necessary to liberate Kuwait. Captain Korczynski was an honorably discharged Marine and a reservist at the time, but was not activated during the conflict. He volunteered to serve anyway, showing his patriotism and dedication to his country.

In his later years, Captain Korczynski trained and mentored young pilots. Certified

as a commercial airline check airman and flight instructor, he instructed young pilots at the Gulfstream Flight Academy for Gulfstream Airlines based in Miami, Florida. He left an everlasting impression on these young pilots who would later recall these stories of his Marine Corps days, commercial airline career, and world travels as “Erwinisms.”

Our country owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Captain Korczynski for his tireless defense of our country during two major conflicts. In neither case was he obligated to don a uniform. In voluntarily joining the Marines and airlifting 30 years later, he illustrated his commitment to freedom and democracy around the world. Simply put, the United States is a better country because of him. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Captain Korczynski's twin brother, Edwin, wife Henrietta, daughters Elizabeth and Kiersten, sons Ryan and Christian, and granddaughter Emmalyn. He will always be remembered as a great man and a great American.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK TAYLOR

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated, compassionate and effective public servant Frank Taylor, who is retiring after serving the people of Macomb County, Michigan for 33 years, the last 10 as Director of the County's Community Services Agency. Mr. Taylor is a leader in the field of Community Action Agencies and a shining example of everything a public servant should aspire to be.

Mr. Taylor graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1974. The next year he began teaching and coaching at Harper Woods Public Schools and began earning his Master of Arts Degree in Education from Oakland University which he completed in 1980. In 1979, he began his successful tenure with Macomb County, starting at the Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board as a Youth Programs Supervisor. He rose through the ranks becoming Assistant Director in 1982 and holding that position until 1997 when he was promoted to Director. In 2001 he embraced a new challenge, moved departments and became Director of the Macomb County Community Services Agency.

Under Mr. Taylor's leadership the Community Services Agency established highly effective programs and services that addressed that most pertinent needs of county residents. He worked diligently to leverage funds from the Recovery Act, administering over 14 million dollars for vital programs such as Home Weatherization, Food Assistance and Early Head Start. In fact, through creative thinking, he was able to leverage funds and make the vital Early Head Start program permanent one year after its enactment.

In addition, the Senior Nutrition program vastly increased the number of meals offered to homebound senior citizens and the Food Program increased the amount of emergency food distributed. Mr. Taylor effectively identified grant opportunities to provide emergency services to low income individuals in need.

In 2010 Mr. Taylor led a statewide initiative to purchase a multimillion dollar client database within nine months that substantially increased accessibility and efficiency. The initiative included a plan to deliver training to staff and is now being used by every Community Action Agency in the State.

I have witnessed first-hand Mr. Taylor's passion and dedication through the years. He is an outspoken advocate for low-income home energy assistance, as well as the Community Service Block Grant program, which is so important to the delivery of vital services to those in need. Mr. Taylor has always focused like a laser on ensuring that residents of the county receive the highest quality of services in an efficient and compassionate manner. It has been a true pleasure for my staff and I to work with him, and the citizens of Macomb County are grateful for his dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Frank Taylor, who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of living for working class people in Macomb County for 33 years. I am confident he will continue to play an important role in the community where he is highly thought of, in addition to enjoying a bit of retirement. Importantly, he and his wife Rosanne, married 34 years, now get to enjoy spending time with their first grandchild, Olivia, just born on December 6th.

LEGISLATION TO ALLOW CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today with the following Members: Mr. ELIJAH CUMMINGS, Mr. JOHN DUNCAN, and Mr. PEDRO PIERLUISI.

Currently, Members of Congress are allowed to nominate a limited number of candidates to the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. However, the smallest of the five federal service academies—the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, USCGA—does not accept congressional nominations.

Instead, the USCGA admits candidates through a process that closely resembles the admissions processes of civilian colleges and universities. Without a congressional nominations process, the applicant pool of candidates to the USCGA is predictably less geographically diverse than at the other military service academies. The inevitable result of a less geographically diverse applicant pool is a less geographically diverse class. The statistics bear this out; in fact, there was not a single appointment from Arkansas, Delaware, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands in the USCGA Class of 2015.

Under my legislation, starting in academic year 2013, each Member of Congress would be allowed to nominate up to three qualified candidates to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. In turn, the Coast Guard would be required to