United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012 No. 11

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 25, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JASON CHAFFETZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

As You make available to Your people the grace and knowledge to meet the needs of the day, we pray that Your spirit will be upon the Members of this people's House, giving them the richness of Your wisdom.

Bless the Members of the minority party as they gather these days. May they, with those who accompany them, travel safely and meet in peace.

Bless also the majority party as they return to their constituencies. Give them hearts and ears to listen well to all of those whom they represent.

May the power of Your truth and our faith in Your providence give them all the confidence they must have to do the good work required for service to our Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GABBY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my grandmother used to say that there is nothing more powerful than a woman that has made up her mind. GABBY GIFFORDS has always been that woman. She is compassionate, tenacious, and relentless in her love for our country.

Her desire to serve and represent the people of Arizona has never wavered, and she will carry that same feisty spirit with her indefinitely.

After she was attacked and faced with what seemed to be insurmountable odds, GABBY fought each day to get better. Her recovery has been a miracle, and she will only continue to get stronger.

GABBY is the spirit of bipartisanship that we should all learn from, and I have enjoyed working with her on border security issues. She makes decisions based on what she sees to be right for her people. Although she will no longer serve in Congress for the time being, the people of Arizona have not lost an advocate.

No question about it, GABBY is a fighter, and she fights for what she believes in. She is fiercely dedicated to making her community and our country a better place because she is a woman that has made up her mind.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRESS SHOULD GET THINGS DONE FOR OUR COUNTRY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, my constituents in Rhode Island have been hit hard by this recession. Last night, President Obama offered Congress a

Printed on recycled paper.

plan to rebuild our economy with proposals focused on manufacturing, innovation, investments in infrastructure and workforce training, proposals that I and many of my colleagues have been working hard to advance.

I urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to move forward on the Offshore Prevention Act that would end tax breaks for companies that ship American jobs overseas. We should work together to strengthen American manufacturing by passing legislation such as my Make it in America Block Grant and the rest of the Make it in America agenda. I look forward to fighting hard for commonsense proposals like these that will benefit hard-working families in my State.

Rhode Islanders want Congress to move beyond ideological differences to get things done for our country. After so much unproductive partisanship this past year, let's send the President bills like these that will advance not just the interests of Democrats or Republicans, but of every American family.

SEQUESTRATION UNDERMINES PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution gives Congress the responsibility of providing for a common defense. The defense cuts that occur in 2013 as a result of sequestration undermines this constitutional duty. General Ray Odierno, the Army Chief of Staff, has stated, ''Cuts of this magnitude would be catastrophic for the military.''

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has said that under sequestration, ''We would have to reduce the size of the military sharply. Rough estimates indicate after 10 years of these cuts, we would have the smallest ground forces since 1940, the smallest number of ships since 1915, and the smallest Air Force in our history.''

With growing worldwide threats, the President last night praised our troops but actually is slashing the Army by 80,000 troops and cuts to Marines by 20,000.

I urge my colleagues to support Chairman BUD MCKEON and vote in favor of the Down Payment on National Security Act. This bill provides certainty for the military to promote peace through strength.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CONGRESS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER

(Ms. HOCHUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, exactly 12 hours ago, those of us who sat in this Chamber watched raw courage walk through that door when our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, came in here of her own accord. She overcame obstacles both physical and emotional that few of us can ever imagine. In this room, we often find similar challenges. I call on this body in the spirit of GABBY GIFFORDS to put aside our differences and work together and institute the parts of the President's plan we heard last night that we all agree on.

I sat over here on the so-called Republican side of the aisle, and I know there were times when my colleagues, all of them, got up and applauded and supported the President and issues, whether it was to bring back jobs from overseas, whether it was fairness in our Tax Code, or infrastructure for our roads and bridges that are crumbling, at least in my district.

We have much before us, just as our friend GABBY did. We can overcome it. She did it. We must. The American people are counting on us.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, last night in this very Chamber, I heard the President talk of an ''all-of-the-above'' energy strategy for our Nation. I couldn't agree more. But this is the same President who a few days ago rejected the Keystone XL pipeline project, a $7 billion trifecta shovel-ready for America: jobs, energy security, and urgent logistical relief necessary to move oil to the gulf coast region.

Count me as one of the disappointed. At a time when we should be doing everything we can to be giving American workers a lift, instead we take to the bully pulpit and preach envy and division, simply a smokescreen for political convenience and expedience.

Mr. President, if you truly believe in an all-of-the-above strategy, if you're genuinely concerned about 8½ percent unemployment, and if you're looking for a bipartisan way to reverse this economic course we are on, say ''yes'' to Keystone XL.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Members that they are to address their remarks to the Chair.

FAIRNESS IS VITAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF OUR SOCIETY

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased last night to hear President Obama talk about the defining issue of our time, the great economic disparity that we face in this society and the need to have a fair taxation system. Of course, what is fair is in the eye of the beholder, and the recent disclosure of Governor Mitt Romney's tax returns offers us a great laboratory to talk about that.

On $21 million in income, he paid $3 million in taxes. The question for us shouldn't be whether $3 million is fair or whether a 13.9 percent rate is fair. The question is, did he deserve a preferential rate? Did that $21 million of income educate anyone, did it create jobs, did it provide important research, did it build infrastructure? If it provided a broad societal benefit, then that preferential rate is justified. If not, then we can't explain to hard-working Americans how he pays a lower rate than they do.

Fairness is incredibly vital to the survival of our society, and we need to emphasize that always.

□ 0910

STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH

(Mr. LANKFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, today is day 1,001 since the Senate has passed a budget. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, the President has notified this body that his budget will also be late this year. Now, that may be a couple days, it may be a week—we don't know exactly how late that's going to be at this point. And last night, at the State of the Union Address, he spent exactly 3 percent of the speech talking about debt and deficits. We have $15.3 trillion worth of debt right now in our Nation. It is a major issue for us. It slows down our economy.

I was very pleased to hear him talk about an all-of-the-above energy strategy though, and I'm very focused on that exact same thing. But I did have a couple things that need to be cleared up. He mentioned basically that hydraulic fracking and the process of recovering shale gas was a Federal project and a Federal invention. Well, I'd like to inform everyone that since 1949, we have done that in Oklahoma. And the chemicals that he mentioned, we need to get out there and stop concealing them. If you go to fracfocus.org, Mr. Speaker, you will already find all those hydraulic chemicals out there. So we need to clear those things up.

MOVE AMERICA FORWARD

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, last night was the State of the Union, but it was also the State of the American family, for family values were much on display like I have never seen before in this room. We had the President of the United States and his beautiful wife, Michelle, who have a beautiful family

and certainly exhibited family values. And we had GABBY GIFFORDS and her marvelous husband, Mark Kelly, who have shown family values. Two couples in America that are beautiful and have shown what vows mean and what for better or worse mean. They know a marriage is forever.

They also are great Americans who want to bring this country together. And the President properly said our country is great. We're doing better. We have improved since the Bush years in so many areas and are putting our country on a course toward economic employment, preservation of the middle class, shared responsibility, and fairness.

I urge everybody, in the spirit of family values that the President and Representative GIFFORDS and their families exhibit, to join together as an American family and move this country forward and keep America number one.

HOUSE-PASSED BILLS DEMAND ACTION

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last night, President Obama asked Congress to support his same failed policies that have kept unemployment above 8 percent. This administration has caused our economy to fail. The House has passed more than 30 bipartisan bills that will create American jobs, but the Democratic-controlled Senate has failed to move on 27 of them. It's time for the Senate and the President to get behind these commonsense bills that will boost job growth, cut spending, shrink the deficit, and get the government out of the way of small business.

Just last week, the President rejected the Keystone project, which would create tens of thousands of jobs, draw billions of dollars in new investment to the United States, and increase our domestic energy security. America's energy independence should be a top priority for the White House. Americans want, need, and deserve immediate action on these bills and the Keystone pipeline.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Egyptian people on their revolution 1 year ago today. Of course that revolution is still a work in progress, but it reminded us of what people can accomplish through nonviolence and perseverance. It inspired my constituents and people around the world.

Egyptians disproved the myth that people in the region do not want democracy. Protesters in the streets were not asking for another dictator. The nonviolent protest was a stunning rejection of violence and extremism as exhibited by al Qaeda. They also were not blaming others for their problems. Their demands focused primarily on internal issues like the economy, corruption, and police brutality.

The United States must engage the new Egyptian Government. We can't advance our interests and values if we don't. If the new Parliament doesn't deliver, the Egyptian people will throw them out just like our people will throw us out. That's democracy. As they build theirs, we should remember that we're still perfecting our own.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

ULTRALIGHT AIRCRAFT SMUGGLING PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3801) to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify the definition of aircraft and the offenses penalized under the aviation smuggling provisions under that Act, and for other purposes,

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3801

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may cited as the ''Ultralight Aircraft Smuggling Prevention Act of 2012''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF AIRCRAFT AND OFFENSES UNDER AVIATION SMUGGLING PROVISIONS OF THE TARIFF ACT OF 1930.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 590 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1590) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) DEFINITION OF AIRCRAFT.—In this section, the term 'aircraft'—

''(1) has the meaning given that term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code; and

''(2) includes a vehicle described in section 103.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.''.

(b) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Subsection (d) of section 590 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1590(d)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting '', or attempts or conspires to commit,'' after ''commits''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section apply with respect to violations of any provision of section 590 of the Tariff Act of 1930 on or after the 30th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Department of Defense has worked collaboratively with the Department of Homeland Security to identify equipment, technology, and expertise used by the Department of Defense that could be leveraged by the Department of Homeland Security to help fulfill its missions.

(2) As part of that collaborative effort, the Department of Homeland Security has leveraged Department of Defense equipment, technology, and expertise to enhance the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to detect, track, and engage illicit trafficking across the international borders between the United States and Mexico and the United States and Canada.

(3) Leveraging Department of Defense equipment, technology, and expertise is a cost-effective inter-agency approach to enhancing the effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security to protect the United States against a variety of threats and risks.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should—

(1) continue the broad program of cooperation and collaboration with the Secretary of Homeland Security described in subsection (a); and

(2) ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is able to identify equipment and technology used by the Department of Defense that could also be used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to enhance its efforts to combat illicit trafficking across the international borders between the United States and Mexico and the United States and Canada, including equipment and technology that could be used to detect and track the illicit use of ultralight aircraft.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, as a former sheriff, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3801 because it would address the increasing use of ultralight aircraft in the smuggling of contraband across our borders.

We also move this bill today in honor of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, the sponsor of this bill. She ably represented Arizona's Eighth Congressional District since being elected to the United States House of Representatives in November of 2006. In fact, our offices were next door to each other when she first arrived in Congress, and we had an opportunity to walk and talk and share some stories, and I learned from her that she came to Congress for the right reasons—she is concerned about her constituents and cares and loves this country deeply. So we got to know each other just a little bit. And one of her foremost

concerns has been the safety of her constituents. This bill is but one way in which she addressed those concerns, working together with her good friend and tireless colleague, Representative FLAKE. I'm delighted that we can move this bipartisan bill. We look forward to the day when GABRIELLE fully recovers.

The use of ultralights, which are small, slow, highly maneuverable, single-seat recreation air vehicles is a proven way to smuggle contraband. These planes fly at a very low altitude and do not even have to land; they simply drop their bundles of contraband at a predestined point and fly back undetected.

A sheriff in Luna County, New Mexico, was quoted as saying that we need the ability to detect smugglers' flights before they cross the border to track them and give us a good indication of where they're dropping their contraband so that we can pre-position our response teams.

This legislation provides the tools to stop these smugglers from using ultralight aircraft. First, the bill adds ultralights to the definition of aircraft for purposes of smuggling and stiffens the penalties for using this type of aircraft to smuggle contraband. Secondly, it enhances the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to detect, track, and halt illicit trafficking across the international borders between the United States and Mexico and the United States and Canada by calling for a collaborative effort between the Department of Defense and Customs and Border Protection. For these reasons, I'm in favor of expanding our abilities to combat smuggling and support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0920

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise very much in support of the Ultralight Aircraft Smuggling Prevention Act of 2012. It is crucially important in two respects:

It is important in and of itself. It's clear we need to act. Every year, hundreds of these aircraft are flown across our borders. They are carrying drugs. Smugglers favor them because they are hard to detect, they are inexpensive, and they can often avoid radar detection. The problem is that under current law, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, and the prosecutors don't have the authority to charge the users, these offenders, with the existing statute, so they can't seek the higher penalties or lower the burden of proof.

This bill—and this is the second significance—was introduced by Representative GABBY GIFFORDS, and it would close this loophole. So I think for all of us, colleagues and friends, this is a special moment. This legislation was characteristic of the devotion, the dedication, and the hard work of Representative GIFFORDS, representing so ably the people of her district, the people of her State, and the people of our entire Nation.

GABBY GIFFORDS has been a spectacular star in the congressional galaxy. And we say, as friends, with love and affection, we know that that star will continue to shine brightly, and it will inspire us all.

GABBY GIFFORDS will be sorely missed, but her dedication, her vitality, and her courage have set an example that I think, hopefully, will lead us to undertake our duties with the same devotion as she has given to her work here in the House.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the other side may have some additional speakers. We have one additional speaker. So I would yield to Mr. LEVIN to continue with the further speakers on his side.

I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the gentleman from Washington.

It is my pleasure now to yield 3 minutes to another distinguished gentleman from the State of Washington and member of our committee, Mr. MCDERMOTT.

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support H.R. 3801, the Ultralight Aircraft Smuggling Prevention Act of 2012. This bill, as you have heard, will help prevent drug smuggling across our borders, and it does it, really, in three ways:

It amends the current law to give our prosecutors the authority to charge smugglers who fly ultralight aircraft the same way as they charge smugglers who fly conventional aircraft.

Second, the bill adds both an ''attempt'' and a ''conspiracy'' provision to the aviation smuggling law. That means our prosecutors will be able to seek higher penalties when it makes sense.

And finally, the bill directs the Defense Department and the Department of Homeland Security to collaborate in identifying equipment and technology that could be used by our Customs officials to detect these ultralight aircraft.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation that addresses a real problem and does so in a way that deserves broad bipartisan support. A very similar bill passed the House in the last Congress by a vote of 412–3. So this is a broad bipartisan bill. I expect this bill to pass with the same kind of bipartisan support today.

What's unique about it is that it comes on the day when GABBY GIFFORDS is going to resign from the Congress, the woman who brought this bill to the floor. And I want to congratulate her, not only on this important piece of legislation, but for the impressive record she developed over the 5 years that she was representing the Eighth District of Arizona.

We all know GABBY's spirit well enough to know she will be back to serve the public as soon as she possibly can. She has an office down the hall from mine, and I occasionally walked with her from the office over here in the times when we came over to vote, and I got to know her on a human basis. She is truly a wonderful woman, and we will miss her. She had a bright future before her here, and it's sad to us that she's leaving, but it's important for her to take care of herself.

I'm a physician. I'm a psychiatrist, and I have seen cases like hers in the past and know that the possibilities for rehabilitation are very good. But it takes time, and running political campaigns and doing the kinds of things that you have to do in this business doesn't give you much time to take care of yourself. So we want GABBY to go home and take care of herself and return to her highest level of ability, because she has much to offer the people of the State of Arizona and her husband and the country.

So it's with a great deal of sadness that we say good-bye to her, but on the other hand, we're very happy for her. We very much urge everyone to vote for this bill.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and also take a moment to recognize him for his continuing efforts and dogged determination to ensure the safety of our country's borders.

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in support of this legislation. It is needed and will help on the border to close this loophole to make sure that we can better protect the border.

I also want to pay tribute at this time to my friend and colleague GABBY GIFFORDS for bringing this bill forward and for her work on this over the years. I have traveled to the border many times to meet with those property holders there, particularly the ranchers—the Glenns, the Ladds, and others—that she knows so well, that she has worked with over the years to develop legislation like this and the other legislative initiatives that she has pushed to make sure that we have a secure border.

She met with these groups and then committed to have conference calls routinely to make sure that she was hearing their concerns, and she did so over a long period of time. And I can tell you, those who reside at the border, those who live there, who have property there, who work there, who have been there for generations appreciate so deeply the work that she has done over these years.

I want to pay tribute also to her family, especially her good husband, Mark, for this difficult and challenging year, for supporting her, and for making sure that she had what she needed and that she is recovering. What a wonderful story they have together and will continue to have.

I also want to pay tribute to GABBY GIFFORDS' wonderful staff. This has

been a challenging year for them, and they have done everything possible to ensure that the people from the Eighth District have received the representation that they deserve. They've worked long hours under difficult circumstances and have made sure that those constituents were well served. I was down in Sierra Vista last week and spoke to many of her constituents who recognize the efforts of GABBY and her good staff in this difficult time.

We, as the Arizona delegation, will miss her in Congress deeply. We are so appreciative of the service that she has rendered; and we know that she will continue to serve, whether in the future in an elected office or in whatever capacity, she will continue to serve the good people of Arizona and this country.

□ 0930

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), a gentleman who has been very much involved in issues relating to this bill.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Like my friend and colleague from Washington, I, too, rise in support of this legislation, H.R. 3801, as a former Federal law enforcement officer, retired Border Patrol Agent and Border Patrol Chief who had the opportunity, as a cochair of the Border Caucus, to work very closely with GABBY GIFFORDS. It's a real privilege to be able to support this piece of legislation which, as my colleague from Washington mentioned, has previously passed the House and, it's my understanding, has already passed Senate. So I urge all my colleagues to support it.

I, too, would like to pay tribute to GABBY GIFFORDS because not only did I get a chance to work with her on border issues as members of the Border Caucus, but also as members of the Interparliamentary Group, and wanted to make sure that we know that we're not counting out GABBY. I think those of us that know her, those of us that have had the privilege of working with her, understand that she is determined to make a full recovery.

We all will miss her, but we certainly agree with the decision that she has made, along with her husband, Mark, and her family, that she needs to take some time to fully recover. So we haven't seen the last of GABBY GIFFORDS, I believe.

I think whatever the future holds for her, she has made this a better place because of her work, because of her thirst to seek out the facts. This piece of legislation is just one indicator of the work that she has done on behalf of not just her constituents and not just her State, but work done on behalf of our Nation to keep us safe, especially post-9/11.

So I hope today we have a unanimous vote of support for legislation that, yes, is needed, because I've been on the border with our Border Patrol Agents and ICE agents and have seen some of these ultralights that this legislation addresses, but more than that, because we have to continue the fight against these drug cartels and these drug trafficking organizations.

So I urge all the Members to vote ''yes,'' and wish GABBY and her family well and am proud to have worked with her.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan, and I thank the manager of the bill and rise today to support H.R. 3801.

I serve on the Homeland Security Committee and know the importance of emphasizing utilizing resources in a partnership and, in fact, passing a law, an authorization for that. We all know there's a firewall between a civilian government and its Department of Defense, and that's why I think this bill is particularly astute and particularly important, authored by our friend GABBY GIFFORDS. I thank her for her thoughtfulness to ensure that, as we put assets together, we have the act of law to ensure that it is properly done.

As a member of a border State, or a resident of a border State, having been to the border many times, having walked the border from California to Texas, having been on the border at night, having been on the border with Customs and Border Patrol, I can see what these assets can do to help stop the scourge of drug cartels and drug trafficking, and certainly making sure that those who come into this country come in for the right reason.

I also had the privilege of serving as part of the region that we are associated with in the structure of this Congress and served on the steering and policy committee with our friend. I consider her a gift that keeps on giving to this Nation; and I really do believe that, as she pursues her own health issues, as she continues to espouse those values that she did when she was here. I think America's a great country, and she is an example of that and her husband, Mark, who served so well in exploring our universe.

We, in Houston, owe her a debt of gratitude, for you could not imagine the love and affection of Houstonians who had never met Congresswoman GIFFORDS as she healed in our community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. So I'd like to say thank you to her and wish her well and to say, as I've said before, she is an American hero because of the courage. Certainly we acknowledge those who lost their lives and those who were wounded on that tragic day, but what a symbol that this Congresswoman represents, this American represents to all who seek a better place.

I ask our colleagues to enthusiastically support H.R. 3801.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional Members seeking time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as we wrap up, I look about and think of this institution. It sometimes can be quite impersonal. I think for all of us today, this is a very personal moment, and I think all of us join in saluting GABBY and Mark.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I will keep my closing statement short.

This obviously is an important bill to this country for our Nation's security and is especially important on this day when our good friend, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, has presented her resignation.

I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3801, an important piece of bi–partisan legislation that will strengthen our borders and strike an important blow against those who would try and smuggle drugs into this country.

But I also rise to honor H.R. 3801's sponsor, my long time friend Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS.

I have known GABBY a long time. In fact, our friendship goes back long before either one of us considered running for Congress to when we spent time together during our involvement with the Aspen Institute's Rodel Fellowship and traveled to Vietnam together with the American Council of Young Political Leaders.

I have truly missed seeing GABBY in the halls of the House and will continue to miss her in the years to come. While I am sad to hear she is moving on, I wish her well as she continues her remarkable recovery.

Though she is retiring from the House this week, I know that GABBY's impact on public policy, this Congress, and this country is far from over. I look forward to seeing the great things she will accomplish in the years to come.

Just as was the case with much of what she does GABBY's last legislative act before she resigns has strong bipartisan appeal. I support H.R. 380 and I support GABBY.

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3801. This critically-needed legislation will provide law enforcement officials with a powerful new tool in the on-going war against illicit drugs.

It imposes tough new penalties on smugglers who use ultralight aircraft to illegally bring drugs into America. But just as importantly, it sends a clear signal that we are going to do whatever it takes to protect our borders from the raging narco wars which are plaguing Mexico today.

Last year, I was proud to support my close friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, in her efforts to pass similar legislation, and I'm honored—in her last official act—to do so again today.

For many people, this is a bittersweet moment because of GABBY'S difficult decision to retire from Congress after more than five

years of outstanding public service to the people of Arizona and to America.

But I see this more as a celebration of her life—and a celebration of what's still to come in her life—as GABBY continues to make a miraculous recovery which is nothing short of a miracle.

So, in some ways, you can view her retirement today as a glass half-full story. Yet when it comes to GABBY GIFFORDS, the glass is always full—and usually overflowing with love, kindness and devotion.

She has been such an inspiration for me and for millions of Americans as well.

Throughout her life, GABBY has had such a special way of bringing diverse people together and finding solutions that benefit everyone.

We will miss her in Congress, but I know deep in my heart that we have not heard or seen the last of this extraordinary woman.

God bless you, GABBY, and thank you for your tireless dedication to America and to your fellow human beings.

When God created miracles, he certainly had you in mind.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support for H.R. 3801, The Ultralight Aircraft Smuggling Prevention Act of 2012, and also my strong admiration of its sponsor, my colleague and friend GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

GABBY will be stepping down from Congress this week to focus on her recovery, but it is clear that she is not stepping down from her commitment to public service and her devotion to her constituents. GABBY GIFFORDS remains an inspiring example of how legislators can be effective in reaching across the aisle and encouraging cooperation between those who are often adversaries.

America has learned a lot about GABBY GIFFORDS since the tragic shooting last January. We have watched her deal with her grievous wounds with courage and determination. We know not just her strength, but her genuine warmth. America, like all of us who have had the joy to work with her, not only respect her but love her.

I am sad to see GABBY leave the House—she will be sorely missed. I know she will continue her amazing path to recovery, with her remarkable husband Mark Kelly by her side. I look forward to working with her in the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3801.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0944

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ) at 9 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1022, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3801, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS STUDY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1022) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the National Parks, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 338, nays 70, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 10]

YEAS—338

Adams
Altmire
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berg
Berkley
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blumenauer
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brooks
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibson
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Gowdy
Granger
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kissell
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stivers
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (FL)

NAYS—70

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Amash
Bachmann
Benishek
Blackburn
Bonner
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Carter
Cassidy
Coble
Conaway
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Flores
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Harris
Hensarling
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Johnson (OH)
Jordan
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Landry
Manzullo
Marchant
McHenry
Mulvaney
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunnelee
Palazzo
Pearce

Pence
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Quayle
Renacci
Rokita
Ross (FL)
Scalise
Shuster
Stearns
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thornberry
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Westmoreland
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—25

Ackerman
Berman
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Burton (IN)
Campbell
Culberson
DeFazio
Emerson
Farr
Giffords
Gosar
Hinchey
Johnson (GA)
LaTourette
Loebsack
Mack
Paul
Payne
Rivera
Ros-Lehtinen
Slaughter
Waters
Watt
Young (AK)

□ 1018

Messrs. YOUNG of Indiana, TERRY, FLAKE, PRICE of Georgia, AKIN, SULLIVAN, FLORES, FITZPATRICK, BUCSHON, SHUSTER, DESJARLAIS, BONNER, GARDNER, LANDRY and ROKITA changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. WEBSTER, SCOTT of South Carolina, GOWDY, KUCINICH and TOWNS changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, all of us come to the floor today, colleagues of Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, to salute her as the brightest star among us, the brightest star Congress has ever seen.

When she came to Congress and in her service and leadership here, GABBY GIFFORDS brought to Washington and the Capitol the views of a new generation of national leader. From this floor, she has spoken out courageously and led boldly at times that demanded both.

Since the tragic events of 1 year ago, Congresswoman GIFFORDS has become an inspiring symbol of determination and courage to millions of Americans.

She has brought the word ''dignity'' to new heights by her courage.

□ 1020

Congresswoman GIFFORDS' message of bipartisanship and civility is one that all in Washington and in the Nation should honor and emulate. As GABBY said in her video, which moved us all so much this weekend, we can do so much more by working together.

In that vein, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for the courtesies extended to enable this extraordinary ceremony to take place today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With your permission, I would like to acknowledge GABBY's mother, who is with us today, Gloria, and her father, Spencer, who is watching from Tucson. We thank you.

And we thank Commander Mark Kelly, a hero in his own right as an astronaut and a commander of a mission, but also our personal hero, for the care and love that he has given to GABBY over this past year—oh, and before that, to help make her, as Gloria and Spencer have, the person that she is.

I think all of our colleagues join in thanking you, GABBY, for the honor of calling you colleague and wishing you and Mark much happiness and success. You will be missed in the House of Representatives, but your legacy in this Congress and your leadership in our Nation will certainly endure. So thank you for being who you are, for lifting our country at a very important and sad time. We wish you, again, much success. With great gratitude, admiration, and affection, we salute you, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, one last time.

It is now my privilege to yield the floor to the distinguished majority leader of the House, the gentleman from Virginia, Representative CANTOR.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the leader.

Mr. Speaker, a little more than a year ago, America witnessed a heinous attack on GABBY GIFFORDS, her staff, and the citizens of Tucson. This attack took six innocent lives, including Gabe Zimmerman, injured 13, and shook all of us in the congressional community and, in fact, our Nation to its core. This attack was a stark reminder that even in this country, where freedom of speech and public demonstration are the cornerstones of our democracy, citizens and public officials can face violence and danger. We will never forget those who lost their lives on that fateful day or the brave efforts of our law enforcement, community members, and a very special intern who responded in the emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I say we are inspired, hopeful, and blessed for the incredible progress that GABBY has made in her recovery. GABBY's courage, her strength, and her downright fortitude are an inspiration to all of us and all Americans.

As GABBY leaves the House today, Mr. Speaker, she has decided to focus her energies on recovery, but she has refused to give up her fight for the people of her beloved Arizona and her country; and as such, today we will vote on her legislation to help secure our Nation's southwestern border. GABBY's bill gives law enforcement greater authority to penalize those who seek to do us harm by engaging in illegal activity along the border. I commend GABBY for her commitment to work on this and her unwavering commitment to a safer, more secure America.

For the past 6 years, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS has served Arizona's Eighth District with dedication and dignity. I want to recognize her accomplishments here and thank her staff for their exceptional service, dedication, and, yes, courage during these difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to recognize her chief of staff, Pia Carusone. I know, having met with Pia personally, her having worked with our office, she has demonstrated incredible dedication to her coworkers, to you, GABBY, and, Mr. Speaker, she has demonstrated unparalleled leadership for the people of the Eighth District of Arizona. And for that, I know they are and we are very grateful.

On Sunday, Mr. Speaker, I received a call from Captain Mark Kelly—as we all know, GABBY's husband—who informed me of GABBY's decision. Mark has been steadfast in his support of his wife and forever by her side as her best friend and partner. Though GABBY may be leaving Washington today, I know this won't be the last we see of her or Mark.

We wish you, GABBY, we wish Mark, together, the best as they continue the process of GABBY's recovery.

And I'll say once again, Mr. Speaker, GABBY GIFFORDS' strength against all odds serves and will continue to serve as a daily inspiration to all of us.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the leader.

Mr. Speaker, I am now pleased to yield to GABBY's friend, the distinguished minority whip of the House, the gentleman from Maryland, Congressman HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for yielding. I thank the Speaker for ensuring that we would have this opportunity to speak to our friend, GABBY GIFFORDS. I thank the majority leader for his comments.

None of us on this floor are talented enough to summon the rhetoric that all of us feel in our hearts. We have young men and women arrayed on the fields of Iraq and Afghanistan and other troubled spots in the world. They are fighting for freedom and democracy, and too many of them are injured on those fields.

Our beloved colleague GABBY GIFFORDS was injured on the field in the exercise of that democracy, and in being injured, she has become an example for us, for all Americans—and, indeed, all the world—of courage, of clarity of purpose, of grace, of responsibility, of a sense of duty, which she exercises this day.

□ 1030

I love GABBY GIFFORDS. I was honored when she first ran for office, before she was elected, to go to her district, as I have done for so many others in this country, to stand by her side, to walk down the streets of her community with her, to see in her the beauty not only of person. Many of us see the outward visage of us all, but GABBY's beauty is in the heart, in the soul, in the spirit.

The House of Representatives of America has been made proud by this extraordinary daughter of this House who served so well during her tenure here, who felt so deeply about her constituents and cared so much for her country.

GABBY, we love you. We have missed you.

Ms. GIFFORDS. I miss you.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether you were able to hear that response. As GABBY looked with that extraordinary smile, the twinkle in her eyes, she said to me and to all of us, ''I miss you.'' Do any of us doubt that that is the case?

Pia, we are blessed in this House to be served by extraordinary people, of which you are a perfect example, by people who love us but love their country even more, who serve our constituents so extraordinarily well, who evidence every day care for us and care for the work that we do, which we could not do, Pia, without people like yourself and all of your colleagues that we call staff. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, God has blessed GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and he has sent a blessing to all of us in the person of GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. And God blessed GABBY as well with an extraordinary mom and dad and an extraordinary partner in life.

Mark, we owe you a debt of gratitude. Our country owes you a debt of gratitude. I look forward to the day when you and GABBY will be returning here, returned to full health and full ability to serve.

GABBY, America thanks you. It thanks you for the example that you have given of overcoming adversity, and doing so with a spirit unparalleled. God bless you and Godspeed.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I know that every Member in the House would like to associate himself or herself with the remarks of our distinguished majority leader and Democratic whip, especially with regard to GABBY, of course, but also Pia.

It is something that every day we have the Chaplain or the guest chaplain come to the floor and ask God's blessing on this House. As Mr. HOYER said, one of those blessings to us has certainly been the leadership and the life and service that will continue for many years to come of Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS.

We focus on her. She is our friend. We look at her remarkable recovery with great pride. She also carries in her need for recovery the sorrow of so many others who lost their lives today. So the apparent physical recovery that we see is something even more than we could ever imagine for the challenge that Congresswoman GIFFORDS has faced.

God gave her a very special mission. He gave it to GABBY GIFFORDS because he knew she could carry that burden because he has blessed her with so many, many gifts and a very loving family to make her the person that she is. How fortunate we have all been to be part of her life until now and hopefully for a long time to come.

Now, it is with very mixed emotions, Mr. Speaker, that I yield to GABBY's very good and close friend. I say ''mixed emotions'' because we want her to stay with us, but, intellectually, we know that GABBY has made the right decision. Hopefully, it will be liberating for her in many ways but that she goes with knowing the close ties we all feel personally to her.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield the floor now to a very close friend of GABBY, a leader in this House, the gentlelady from Florida, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. If I can ask my colleagues to join me at the well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Madam Leader, Mr. Whip, and Majority Leader.

I couldn't prepare anything this morning because I knew that I would not be able to hold it together for very long.

I am so proud of my friend, and it will always be one of the great treasures of my life to have met GABBY GIFFORDS and to have served with her in this body.

We have all been through such a tumultuous year. The Nation has been through a tumultuous year, no one more tumultuous than GABBY and her family and her constituents in her beloved home city of Tucson, Arizona.

Being able to be GABBY's voice today and knowing her as well as I do, the one thing that has not been said is that GABBY wants her constituents to know, her constituents who she loves so much in southern Arizona, that it has been the greatest professional privilege of her life to represent them; that she loves them, as a fifth-generation Tucsonian; that her public service has meant a great deal to her; that this is only a pause in that public service; and that she will return one day to public service to represent them, as she has so capably done for the last 5½ years.

And let me just say, a point of personal privilege, that the last year has been one of the honors of my life. The most important thing to remember is that no matter what we argue about here on this floor or in this country, there is nothing more important than family and friendship, and that should be held high above all else. I will always carry that in my heart, and even though I know we won't see each other every day, GABBY, we'll be friends for life—for life.

It is my privilege to read this letter on behalf of GABBY and her family and her constituents:

JANUARY 25, 2012.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In 2001, strongly holding the belief that there is no higher calling than serving my country, I went from selling tires in my Tucson family business to being a freshman representative in the Arizona State House. And for 10 years I served—in the Arizona legislature, in the United States Congress, and, after marrying Mark, as a proud military spouse. Always I fought for what I thought was right. But never did I question the character of those with whom I disagreed. Never did I let pass an opportunity to join hands with someone just because he or she held different ideals.

In public service, I found a venue for my pursuit of a stronger America—by ensuring the safety and security of all Americans, by producing clean energy here at home instead of importing oil from abroad, and by honoring our brave men and women in uniform with the benefits they earned. I found a way to care for others. And in the past year, I have found a value that is unbreakable even by the most vicious of attacks.

The tragic January 8th shooting in Tucson took the lives of six beautiful Americans and wounded 13 others, me included. Not a day goes by that I don't feel grief for the lives lost and so many others torn apart. Christina-Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabe Zimmerman embodied the best of America. Each in their own way, they committed their lives to serving their families, community and country, and they died performing a basic but important act of citizenship that's at the heart of our greatness as a nation. They will be remembered always by their country and by their Congress.

I don't remember much from that terrible day, but I have never forgotten my constituents, my colleagues, or the millions of Americans with whom I share great hopes for this nation. To all of them: Thank you for your prayers, your cards, your well wishes, and your support. And even as I have worked to regain my speech, thank you for your faith in my ability to be your voice.

The only way I ever served my district in Congress was by giving 100 percent. This past year, that's what I have given to my recovery. Thank you for your patience. From my first steps and first words after being shot to my current physical and speech therapy, I have given all of myself to being able to walk back onto the House floor this year to represent Arizona's 8th Congressional District. However, today I know that now is not the time. I have more work to do on my recovery before I can again serve in elected office.

This past year my colleagues and staff have worked to make sure my constituents were represented in Congress. But if I can't return, my district deserves to elect a U.S. Representative who can give 100 percent to the job now. For that reason, I have submitted the attached letter of resignation to Arizona Governor Jan Brewer.

Amid all that was lost on January 8th, there was also hope and faith. This past year, it is what I have often clung to: Hope that our government can represent the best of a nation, not the worst. Faith that Americans working together—in their communities, in our Congress—can succeed without qualification. Hope and faith that even as we are set back by tragedy or profound disagreement, in the end we come together as Americans to set a course toward greatness.

Everyday, I am working hard. I will recover and will return, and we will work together again, for Arizona and for all Americans.

Sincerely,

GABIELLE GIFFORDS,
Member of Congress.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in appreciation, once again, for your courtesies enabling this to happen, I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair would remind all Members to be in proper business attire when they come to the floor of the House.

ULTRALIGHT AIRCRAFT SMUGGLING PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3801) to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify the definition of aircraft and the offenses penalized under the aviation smuggling provisions under that Act, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 408, nays 0, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 11]

YEAS—408

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—25

Ackerman
Berman
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Burton (IN)
Campbell
Culberson
DeFazio
Deutch
Farr
Gosar
Granger
Herger
Hinchey
LaTourette
Loebsack
Luetkemeyer
Mack
Paul
Rahall
Rivera
Ros-Lehtinen
Slaughter
Watt
Young (AK)

□ 1055

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 11, on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, I was unable to vote due to unavoidable circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing floor votes on Wednesday, January 25, 2012. Had I registered my votes, I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall 10, motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1022—the Buffalo Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act;

"Yea" on rollcall 11, motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3801—to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify the definition of aircraft and the offenses penalized under the aviation smuggling provisions under the Act, and for other purposes.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, of the following member on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2013:

Mr. Daniel M. Slane, Ohio.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3784

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor to H.R. 3784.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCKINLEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

□ 1100

ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2012

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 27, 2012, and further when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION TO FILE REPORTS ON SUNDRY LEGISLATION

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Budget have until 3 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2012, to file reports on the following measures: H.R. 3582, H.R. 3578, and H.R. 3581.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO INSERT EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) be authorized to insert extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

JOBS AND ENERGY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, my constituents are outraged by the lack of leadership coming from this administration and Senate Democrats.

Last night, the President came here and talked about working with any projects that would put Americans to work. Well, Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have passed 27 bipartisan bills that help job creation, and the Senate Democrats refuse to take action on them.

We also gave the President a bill that creates over 20,000 jobs associated with the Keystone XL pipeline—a project that not only creates jobs but reduces energy costs and leads us to independence from Middle Eastern oil. But President Obama has once again put politics first and has halted the Keystone project. Even one of the President's strongest allies, the unions, have said that the President is wrong on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that, in an effort to save his job, the President is willing to sacrifice the jobs and energy security for Americans that Keystone will create. The President keeps asking for blank checks so he can do more failed stimulus projects or play venture capitalist with companies like Solyndra.

House Republicans will continue our progress in crafting and passing bipartisan legislation like the 27 jobs bills that await action in the Senate. Republicans will continue to create an environment in which businesses can grow and create jobs, and we will continue to work to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF STEVE PERKINS TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. We just saw a very moving ceremony to acknowledge our dear friend and colleague, and again, I offer my appreciation of her service. But in the course, we mentioned her staff as well, and I wanted to make sure that I added my appreciation to Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff.

That leads me to say that we depend upon the staffs of this House and our personal staffs and committee staffs. Not often do we get to know them personally. But I rise today to salute Steve Perkins, who will be retiring, and to thank him for his service to this august body.

To each and every Member, remember that those who serve in this body do not recognize Democrat or Republican; what they recognize is the great service to America.

Mr. Perkins has served this Congress with excellence, commitment, and dedication. He truly should be commended and admired and respected for his service to the Nation. I wish him well in his retirement, with his family, his children, and his grandchildren, and I know that he will continue to be a very special person in the hearts of all of us.

Steve Perkins, we thank you for your service. Thank you for letting us know how much you care about this institution, how much you care about us. Let me say we care about you. Thank you for your service to this Nation and to this great body, the House of Representatives of the United States of America.

KENNETH GUETZKE—FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Guetzke, a World War II veteran from Eden Prairie, Minnesota, one of my constituents who landed at Omaha Beach on D-day and who went on to fight at the Battle of the Bulge. He later was awarded and received both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his service.

During the battle to liberate occupied France, Lieutenant Colonel Guetzke's mission was to protect some of Paris' most famous landmarks—the Eiffel Tower, the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre, and the Arc de Triomphe—from being destroyed by retreating Nazi forces. Earlier this month, the people of France formally thanked Lieutenant Colonel Guetzke, and awarded him the Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor.

I want to thank Lieutenant Colonel Guetzke for his exemplary service, and I also want to congratulate him on receiving France's highest honor.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

JANUARY 25, 2012.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In 2001, strongly holding the belief that there is no higher calling than serving my country, I went from selling tires in my Tucson family business to being a freshman representative in the Arizona State House. And for 10 years I served—in the Arizona legislature, in the United States Congress, and, after marrying Mark, as a proud military spouse. Always I fought for what I thought was right. But never did I question the character of those with whom I disagreed. Never did I let pass an opportunity to join hands with someone just because he or she held different ideals.

In public service, I found a venue for my pursuit of a stronger America—by ensuring the safety and security of all Americans, by producing clean energy here at home instead of importing oil from abroad, and by honoring our brave men and women in uniform with the benefits they earned. I found a way to care for others. And in the past year, I have found a value that is unbreakable even by the most vicious of attacks.

The tragic January 8th shooting in Tucson took the lives of six beautiful Americans and wounded 13 others, me included. Not a day goes by that I don't feel grief for the lives lost and so many others torn apart. Christina-Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabe Zimmerman embodied the best of America. Each in their own way, they committed their lives to serving their families, community and country, and they died performing a basic but important act of citizenship that's at the heart of our greatness as a nation. They will be remembered always by their country and by their Congress.

I don't remember much from that terrible day, but I have never forgotten my constituents, my colleagues, or the millions of Americans with whom I share great hopes for this nation. To all of them: Thank you for your prayers, your cards, your well wishes, and your support. And even as I have worked to regain my speech, thank you for your faith in my ability to be your voice.

The only way I ever served my district in Congress was by giving 100 percent. This past year, that's what I have given to my recovery. Thank you for your patience. From my first steps and first words after being shot to my current physical and speech therapy, I have given all of myself to being able to walk back onto the House floor this year to represent Arizona's 8th Congressional District. However, today I know that now is not the time. I have more work to do on my recovery before I can again serve in elected office.

This past year my colleagues and staff have worked to make sure my constituents were represented in Congress. But if I can't return, my district deserves to elect a U.S. Representative who can give 100 percent to the job now. For that reason, I have submitted the attached letter of resignation to Arizona Governor Jan Brewer.

Amid all that was lost on January 8th, there was also hope and faith. This past year, it is what I have often clung to: Hope that our government can represent the best of a nation, not the worst. Faith that Americans working together—in their communities, in our Congress—can succeed without qualification. Hope and faith that even as we are set back by tragedy or profound disagreement, in the end we come together as Americans to set a course toward greatness.

Everyday, I am working hard. I will recover and will return, and we will work together again, for Arizona and for all Americans.

Sincerely,

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS,
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

JANUARY 25, 2012.

Hon. JANICE K. BREWER,
Arizona Governor, Executive Tower, West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ.

DEAR GOVERNOR BREWER: In 2001, strongly holding the belief that there is no higher calling than serving my country, I went from selling tires in my Tucson family business to being a freshman representative in the Arizona State House. And for 10 years I served—in the Arizona legislature, in the United States Congress, and, after marrying Mark, as a proud military spouse. Always I fought for what I thought was right. But never did I question the character of those with whom I disagreed. Never did I let pass an opportunity to join hands with someone just because he or she held different ideals.

In public service, I found a venue for my pursuit of a stronger America—by ensuring the safety and security of all Americans, by producing clean energy here at home instead of importing oil from abroad, and by honoring our brave men and women in uniform with the benefits they earned. I found a way to care for others. And in the past year, I have found a value that is unbreakable even by the most vicious of attacks.

The tragic January 8th shooting in Tucson took the lives of six beautiful Americans and wounded 13 others, me included. Not a day goes by that I don't feel grief for the lives lost and so many others torn apart. Christina-Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabe Zimmerman embodied the best of America. Each in their own way, they committed their lives to serving their families, community and country, and they died performing a basic but important act of citizenship that's at the heart of our greatness as a nation. They will be remembered always by their country and by their Congress.

I don't remember much from that terrible day, but I have never forgotten my constituents, my colleagues, or the millions of Americans with whom I share great hopes for this nation. To all of them: Thank you for your prayers, your cards, your well wishes, and your support. And even as I have worked to regain my speech, thank you for your faith in my ability to be your voice.

The only way I ever served my district in Congress was by giving 100 percent. This past year, that's what I have given to my recovery. Thank you for your patience. From my first steps and first words after being shot to my current physical and speech therapy, I have given all of myself to being able to walk back onto the House floor this year to represent Arizona's 8th Congressional District. However, today I know that now is not the time. I have more work to do on my recovery before I can again serve in elected office.

This past year my colleagues and staff have worked to make sure my constituents were represented in Congress. But if I can't return, my district deserves to elect a U.S. Representative who can give 100 percent to the job now. For that reason, I am resigning from the U.S. House of Representatives effective at the end of today.

Amid all that was lost on January 8th, there was also hope and faith. This past year, it is what I have often clung to: Hope that our government can represent the best of a nation, not the worst. Faith that Americans working together—in their communities, in our Congress—can succeed without qualification. Hope and faith that even as we are set back by tragedy or profound disagreement, in the end we come together as Americans to set a course toward greatness.

Everyday, I am working hard. I will recover and will return, and we will work together again, for Arizona and for all Americans.

Sincerely,

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS,
Member of Congress.

□ 1110

HIGH-LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

SENATOR MARK KIRK'S CONDITION

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the leadership for allowing me this time to come to the floor. I'm going to do two short items, and then I'll address the weekly discussion on high-level nuclear waste and Yucca Mountain.

First, because of this day and our focus on the sacrifice of our colleague GABBY GIFFORDS, let me update my colleagues on Senator MARK KIRK's progress, since he was a former colleague in this Chamber.

Senator KIRK's early prognosis is good, and his doctors are pleased with his progress at this point. As the Senator continues his recovery, his offices will remain open to constituents. I will just add very similarly, Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff continued to do the best job they could to serve the constituents of her congressional district. While she was unable to attend to many events, staff really did pick up the ball and carry it for her, as Senator KIRK's staff will continue to do for the State of Illinois.

During MARK's five terms in the House of Representatives and his first in the Senate, Senator KIRK has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents. From traveling around the State holding town halls, to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to build consensus on key issues, to traveling overseas to advocate for strengthening America's security in relationships with foreign nations, Senator KIRK has demonstrated endless energy and dedication in public service. I have no doubt that he will return to the Senate with the same zeal and passion for his job that he had when he first entered this Chamber 12 years ago.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK COOK

Mr. SHIMKUS. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. It's an organization designed around legislators from all of our NATO countries. It's been in existence over 50 years. Since the legislative bodies in most chambers are the funding for the military, it's important that the legislative body talks about NATO's role in the past, in the present, and in the future.

During my time as a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, I became great friends with a member of the British Parliament who recently passed away, and I would like to pay tribute to him.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to my British friend and colleague, Frank Cook, who passed away on January 12. Frank was a longtime colleague of mine in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. As you know, the Assembly brings together Members of Congress with their counterparts from Canada and Europe to talk about issues that concern us all. As a leading member of the Defense Security Committee, Frank Cook made vital contributions in debates in the Assembly from the mid-1980s to 2010 on issues as wide ranging as Afghanistan, arms control with Russia, NATO's operation in Kosova, and its relations with Ukraine and other partners. He also served as vice president of the Assembly.

Frank embodied the spirit of the transatlantic alliance. He was never shy to express his opinions with a clear mind and a sharp wit. Even when Frank and I disagreed on policy, we remained friends and allies because we shared the values that underpin NATO: freedom, democracy, fundamental human rights, and the rule of law. We both believed that the NATO Alliance was critical to our collective security and defense, and that we as legislators in our own countries needed to do everything we could to make sure it was capable of meeting the threats we face in the 21st century.

I can recall many unforgettable experiences I've shared with Frank. I observed him lead a forceful debate on controversial issues and get all sides mad, like a debate he led on Nagorno-Karabakh in Quebec in 2006.

He and I took incoming artillery fire from the Taliban in Kandahar Airfield in 2007.

During the summer of 2010, we visited Greenland together. We visited a military encampment called Point North, which is north of the Arctic Circle. The dogs there pull sleds and provide early warning for polar bears. They appear quite scary, but Frank was the first to amble up and pet them.

Frank was a throwback to a time when characters could be listed—and by being listed, in parliamentary speak, that means being put on the party list for election—so Frank was a throwback to a time when characters could be listed and serve constituencies.

But perhaps my most memorable experience was when Frank would regularly treat us with the best performance of ''My Way'' since Old Blue Eyes himself—not a small feat for a Brit.

I learned a great deal from him, and he will be deeply missed by many of his friends at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and here in Congress.

Now to the business at hand, Mr. Speaker. Again, thank you for letting me come down once again to talk

about a very pressing and important issue in this country, one that I'm going to continue to use the bully pulpit for to help educate my colleagues, the public as a whole, even you, Mr. Speaker, on the need to address the issue of high-level nuclear waste in this country.

It's an issue that has been around since the development of the nuclear weapon system that we used to win World War II. Some of that waste is still there from that time, and it still sits in the same location of 40–50 years ago. It has hit the international stage with the experience that Japan has had in Fukushima Daiichi and the tsunami, not just the generating facilities themselves but what happened to the nuclear waste on-site, and an international nuclear disaster that still is making it difficult for our allies in Japan and really causes us to make sure that we look at our systems and understand what is our national policy on high-level nuclear waste and why we are not moving forward.

What I've done in my times coming to the floor is go around the country and highlight where nuclear waste sites are and compare it to where we, by Federal law, have stated our nuclear waste should be stored. This is all under the 1982 Energy Policy Act, and a site was located under that law in 1987. So let's go through the area for a brief review.

This is what happens when we no longer have pages on the House floor to help us.

The first site I visited personally was in Washington State and the site is called Hanford, which was a good place to start in this tour of where nuclear waste is because the vast majority of nuclear waste stored here is Department of Defense and Department of Energy waste that was used to develop our nuclear weapons systems during World War II.

There are 57 million gallons of nuclear waste on-site, mostly in large tanks of 750,000 to a million gallons each. The waste is stored 10 feet underground. The waste is 250 feet above the water table, and the waste is 1 mile from the Columbia River. And something that is not listed there, some of that waste is leaking from the tanks.

□ 1120

So let's compare it to the site that we have decided by law to establish, which is Yucca Mountain. Yucca Mountain has currently no nuclear waste on-site. The waste would be stored 1,000 feet underground. The waste is 1,000 feet above the water table, and the waste would be 100 miles from the Colorado River. Nuclear waste next to the Columbia River or nuclear waste stored underneath a mountain in a desert? That is site number one.

Next, not to pick on other States to the exclusion of mine, the next location I talked about was the Zion power plant, decommissioned, high-level nuclear waste still on-site. Let's compare it to Yucca Mountain. Sixty-five casks containing 1,135 metric tons of nuclear waste, the waste is stored above the ground, 5 feet above the water table and 1,300 feet from Lake Michigan. And, of course, this is Lake Michigan right there.

Part of the time what I've been doing is highlighting a location and then looking at the States surrounding. The State of Wisconsin has two nuclear power plants, both on Lake Michigan similarly located. Of course, the stats for Yucca Mountain are the same.

Let me add here that we have already spent $15 billion to study this site of Yucca Mountain, 20 years in the making; and we still wait.

I'm not sure if this is still in the proper order that I have come down to the floor, but the next nuclear power plant that I wanted to highlight was San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. Now, this one is in California, and it's right next to the Pacific Ocean on the opposite side from where Japan is. You can see the waves, and you can see how close it is to the Pacific Ocean. At this power plant, there are 2,300 waste rods on-site. The waste is stored above the ground and in pools, and it's adjacent to the Pacific Ocean, as I said, and 45 miles from San Diego.

Yucca is 90 miles to 100 miles from Las Vegas, and it's also located on government property the size of the State of Rhode Island. It's controlled by a couple of entities, the Department of Energy being one, the Bureau of Land Management being another, and the third one, it is a nuclear test site where we tested nuclear weapons years ago.

I didn't mention Zion nuclear power plant. Zion is located about 45 miles from Chicago, Illinois. There is another nuclear power plant, and that is located in Massachusetts. As you can see, it's next to Cape Cod, the Pilgrim generating facility. There are 2,918 spent fuel assemblies on-site. Waste is stored above the ground in pools. And why is that important? Part of the problem in Fukushima Daiichi was that there was waste stored in pools. Because of the disaster, we're not really sure what happened. Either the foundation was cracked and the coolant water left the pond, or the power went off, the water couldn't circulate, the heat by the rods evaporated the water, then the heat on heat caused the rods to, in essence, start to melt, which is a very dangerous situation.

So much of our nuclear waste throughout this country is stored in pools around the country. Why is that important? Because it's our national policy, based upon a law passed in 1982, followed up by the location site in '87, that we are to have one geological repository, not nuclear waste stored all over this country; but we would have one centralized location. Now, it's important to add that in the next couple of days, the Blue Ribbon Commission is going to come out with a report, and we think it's going to say that it's in the national interest to have one geological repository for high-level nuclear waste. And we await, with interest, that report.

Now we go to Idaho National Labs, a Federal national laboratory in Idaho. Comparing it to where nuclear waste would be stored if we would continue to comply with Federal law, we have in Idaho there 5,090 canisters of waste. A good point to note on this waste, a lot of this waste, again, is from the research done on nuclear power and nuclear weapons systems. And in that process, you create waste. In Hanford, as they're trying to decide what to do with the waste, the containment systems to transport the waste have all been designed with the plan to store in Yucca Mountain.

So when you look at the 53 million gallons in Hanford, and we're going to move that waste out of Washington State and into Yucca, time, effort, energy, and money has gone in to preparing the technology to move this waste and store it in Yucca Mountain, similar to Idaho National Labs. Currently, though, we have 5,090 canisters on-site, waste is stored above the ground, waste is 500 feet above the water table, and the waste is 50 miles from Yellowstone National Park.

Then we go to the great Southeast in the State of Georgia, and we look at the Savannah generating station where you have 6,300 canisters of nuclear waste on-site, water is stored right below the ground zero to 160 feet above the water table. And as you can see from the photo, it's right next to the Savannah River.

Part of the debate that the environmental left and anti-nuclear folks told us about is water in the desert and how it's going to affect nuclear waste. And part of the educational process that I've learned going through the different sites is you really can't find a nuclear power site—and, of course, all nuclear waste generated is still on-site—that's not close to a body of water. So that's this whole issue about would you rather have it next to a body of water or would you rather have it in a desert. I think that debating point is pretty clear. So that's Savannah generating station versus Yucca Mountain.

Right before the end of last year, I came down on the floor and the location that I was to talk about next—of course, I got off topic a little bit and didn't really clarify and identify—is Turkey Point. Turkey Point is in the State of Florida. And, of course, again, we're comparing it to Yucca Mountain. At Turkey Point, you have 1,074 metric-ton vehicles of spent fuel on-site. The waste is stored above the ground in pools. Waste is on the Biscayne Bay at sea level, and the waste is 10 miles from the Everglades versus Yucca Mountain.

Again, defined by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, Yucca was established by Federal law, by this Chamber and the other Chamber and the President of the United States in 1987.

Yucca Mountain is in a desert; the storage site would be underneath a mountain in that desert far away from any population that would be immediately affected.

Another location that I was to address last week, which I also got off topic, is the Sequoyah Nuclear Generating Station. Sequoyah is in Tennessee, but it's right on the South Carolina border. At Sequoyah, there are 1,094 metric-ton vehicles of spent fuel on-site. The waste is stored above ground in pools in dry casks, waste is 25 feet from the groundwater, and waste is 14 miles from Chattanooga on Chickamauga Lake.

What I've done once we get to new States that I haven't really identified is then I've gone and looked at the Senators' past statements and/or their voting record on this because we had a vote on the floor this year on whether we should move forward with the dollars to finish the final scientific study by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and that vote was 297 ''yes.''

□ 1130

Now, there's only 435 Members in this Chamber; a huge bipartisan vote that really sent a signal of where the will of this Chamber is.

So why can't we move forward? The issue is the majority leader of the Senate happens to be from the State of Nevada. And to really get the Senate to move, you have to hold the Senators from these States accountable, or at least for them to state a position as to where they stand on where the nuclear waste currently is, and really what is the proposal and what should we do with it.

So having done that before, I then look at the Senators from the State of Tennessee and the State of North Carolina. Senator ALEXANDER is a ''yes.'' Senator CORKER is a ''no.'' Senator BURR is a ''yes.'' A ''yes'' is let's move our nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain in a desert underneath a mountain.

Senator HAGAN is silent. What do I mean by ''silent''? We couldn't find any public statements. Of course, the Senate has not cast a vote. So we hope maybe the Senator will sometime make her position known, but as for now we will list her as being silent. Again, why is that important? Because we really need to find out where the Senators are.

Under the Senate rules, to break a filibuster you have to have 60 votes. So I'm hoping that through this process we will finally tally them up, which is what I'll do at the end of my time, and kind of show you where we are so far.

Now, I still have a couple of places around the country to address. Remember that these are just one—many States like mine. I've pointed out Zion, but we actually have six sites and 11 reactors. Illinois has a huge nuclear power plant. Fifty percent of our electricity comes from nuclear power. So even though I'm mentioning a few, you can multiply that by three, as far as how many nuclear power plants are out there. And equivalently, if there is a nuclear power plant in your State, then your State is the storage site for nuclear waste right now.

The State that I came to the floor on to highlight today and the region is the State of Arkansas and the State of Missouri. Now, Missouri, as I know—I'm from Illinois. I'm from southern Illinois. I know the State of Missouri well. The State of Missouri has a nuclear power plant called Callaway. So the same thing I'm mentioning here on this power plant in Arkansas you can make for the Callaway plant.

So let's look at the one we've chosen, which is a power plant called Nuclear One. Again, Nuclear One has 1,260 MTBs of spent fuel on site versus none at Yucca Mountain. Nuclear One has waste stored above the ground in pools and dry casts. Obviously, there's no nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, but if there were, where would it be stored? It would be stored 1,000 feet underneath the ground.

Nuclear One has waste adjacent to a water supply. Of course, you can see the photo right here. As I've highlighted, in almost every nuclear power plant or waste site there's water nearby. Well, of course Yucca Mountain is in a desert, so the waste would be stored 1,000 feet above the water table. Nuclear One has waste on Lake Dardanelle, a reservoir on the Arkansas River.

Now, what's a reservoir? I think, by definition, a reservoir is a body of water that you've created to hold water for public use, whether that's for recreation or for drinking and stuff. So there you have, you've got Nuclear One right on this reservoir.

Now, what about the Senators from the State of Arkansas? I mean, are they happy with this nuclear waste on site? So let's look at their positions. We actually have a few other States represented, too.

First, from the State of Arkansas, we have Senator BOOZMAN, one of our former colleagues, has a stated position and cast votes in support of Yucca Mountain. Senator PRYOR, as far as we can tell, is silent. From Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY is a ''yes.'' Senator HARKIN is not only silent, he's a ''no.'' So not sure why that would be, maybe because Iowa doesn't have nuclear power plants in the State of Iowa, but there's definitely some around there. It must be his position that nuclear waste stored around this country is okay.

Then you go to the State of Kansas. Another colleague, former colleague, Senator MORAN, has voted ''yes'' on Yucca Mountain as a good place to put high-level nuclear waste in a single repository. Senator ROBERTS, also a ''yes'' vote. From the State of Missouri, another former colleague of ours, Senator BLUNT is a ''yes'' on moving high-level nuclear waste from the State of Missouri to a desert underneath a mountain. Senator MCCASKILL is silent on this, which, again, since I'm next door to the State of Missouri, I know that the Callaway nuclear power plant is in the State of Missouri, and Senator MCCASKILL is silent on that issue.

So what's our scorecard? Where are we at with going around the country? Because remember, Mr. Speaker, because of the Senate rules, we have to get to 60 to really push something through. So we've identified what we believe is actually 36 ''yes'' votes so far. We've identified actually 10. This should be updated. We have 10 that we really don't know their position; in other words, they have no public statement or they have not cast a vote. And then we have eight definite ''noes,'' which means they have made public statements in opposition to moving nuclear waste underneath a mountain in a desert or they've cast a vote somewhere in some type or signed a letter. We're happy to be corrected on any of this analysis of where Senators are, but I think it's time that we start to get some accountability in this process.

Why have we not moved forward on Yucca Mountain? And the answer is pretty clear that when this administration was running for the Presidency, he, wanting to get support from the senior Senator from the State of Nevada, promised not to move forward. That's fine. It was a political decision. He's holding to his commitment to do that at the cost of what? Nuclear waste being held across this country, in States around this country, in places that, after Fukushima Daiichi, you might argue might not be the best place to have this nuclear waste.

So the President and the Majority Leader of the Senate has placed this in the political realm. Elections have consequences. We're approaching an election cycle. There will be Senators on the ballot in November. What is their position on what their State, and what should be the national position on what we do with high-level nuclear waste.

So we do know we've got a lot who are on record saying nuclear waste ought to go in a single repository in a desert underneath a mountain. We do believe that the Blue Ribbon Commission this week will say this country needs a single repository.

We do have 10 Senators that we do not know their positions; and, to their credit, we have eight that we do know their position in opposition. But it looks, from being a casual observer, and if the trend continues, that we're getting close to a majority of U.S. Senators that say that we should have a single repository, and that single repository should be what's been identified under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and the following legislation in 1987 that said Yucca Mountain is the site.

□ 1140

Why is this important? Fukushima Daiichi is example number one, the

health and wellness of our citizens, the location of all of this nuclear waste. We have to continue to highlight these concerns because the nuclear waste isn't going away. In fact, we have got some nuclear power plants being constructed right now. Maybe in 10 or 15 years, they will start generating. When they do, they will start creating nuclear waste, and that nuclear waste is going to have to go somewhere.

The question that we have highlighted throughout this year we'll finish in a couple of months. Should that be in all these States and all these locations, or should it be at a single repository?

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to coming down numerous times in the future to continue to identify each State, each Senator, and then allow the public access to the information so that they can make a decision if this is an important criteria in this next election cycle. I hope that the answer would be yes so that we would follow up on a national policy to deal with high-level nuclear waste.

We have only spent $15.5 billion in over 20 years to identify Yucca Mountain as a site. If we were to try to find a new site, we throw away the $15 billion, the 20 years of research, and we will have to have another 20-year time for research and development and another $15 billion to get to the same location we are today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

A FUTURE WHERE WE ARE IN CONTROL OF OUR OWN ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the privilege and the honor to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives and to follow the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) here in the well.

I want to first say that he makes clear sense with the argument he makes. We don't hear these arguments enough. Too often, this Congress is dealing with superfluous issues, political issues, rather than practical solutions.

It brings to mind for me the President's speech last night from in front of where you are right now, Mr. Speaker. Very early in his speech, the President said he wants to see a future where we are in control of our own energy. Part of that solution is encompassed by the delivery of JOHN SHIMKUS here a little bit ago with what to do with nuclear waste. I would say also there are other things we can do from a technical perspective to utilize that, recycle that.

Some of the nuclear waste is tied up because of an Executive order that was signed by President Jimmy Carter more than 30 years ago. We haven't cracked the code on how to resolve that even though the science has caught up.

We have a long ways to go, and we need to have an administration that actually means this: A future where we are in control of our own energy. The instant that I heard that statement last night, it occurred to me that the President is in control of our energy, but the American people are not in control of our own energy.

I would point out the Keystone XL pipeline as an example. I heard an instantaneous rumbling here on the floor of the House of Representatives when the statement was made that we were going to be in control of our own energy.

The President also said he wants to see an all-of-the-above energy policy. The all-of-the-above policy includes responsible utilization of all of the nuclear fuel that we have and then responsible positioning of it when we can no longer utilize the energy within it.

But it also includes drilling offshore, and it includes drilling the nonnational parks public lands in the United States, and it includes bringing in energy from other places on the North American continent from our friends, our number one trading partner, Canada, our good friends to the north.

They are in energy-export despair right now because they have listened to what the President had to say. For 3 years, the study has gone on about the Keystone XL pipeline, 1,666 miles of pipeline that runs from Canada down to the gulf coast. It allows for a spur to go off of that to a future refinery that I hope is built in southeastern South Dakota and which would be able to transfer refined oil that would come from the oil sands in northern Alberta and be able to distribute that across the country, primarily to points from there south and east.

Mr. Speaker, the President has blocked the Keystone XL pipeline. He announced last night that he is opening up 75 percent of the—I have forgotten the exact word he used—75 percent of the Federal lands that are eligible, I think would be a fair way to characterize his statement, to drilling for oil. That is news to all of us. It is news to the oil industry, I believe. In the previous State of the Union address that he gave, if I recall correctly, he mentioned that he has opened up drilling in the gulf coast again. In at least one of these addresses that he made, that's what he has said.

But when you look at the permits, it is a different story. They say they are opening up permits again after the BP spill; but we have lost a lot of deepwater rigs to other parts of the oil-developing world, including outside the Western Hemisphere. The industry tells me that once you lose a big rig from a location, it takes about 4½ years to transition it back into the gulf coast again. That has happened to rig after rig down off of the gulf coast.

The announcement that this is the most oil that we have produced or most petroleum that we have produced domestically in 8 years may be true. I don't know anyone else that knew those numbers in this Chamber either. And I am wondering how they defined it, how they quantified it.

In any case, we have a lot of oil that is being produced up in the Bakken region of North Dakota. The reason for that is because they found the oil up there. It is on private land. The Federal Government has not as many tools to obstruct the development of oil production in the Bakken region of North Dakota as they might have in 75 percent of the Federal property that the President addressed last night.

I don't know that any of us believe that he is serious about wanting to develop American energy, especially American petroleum energy. If he were serious about it, why would he not direct the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton—whom he spoke kindly of last night—why would he not direct her to sign the agreement with Canada so that we could go ahead and build the Keystone XL pipeline? The only Federal procedural obstruction left in the way is the permit that is the agreement between Canada and the United States. All that is required to do is to drop that last section of pipe in place right there at the 49th parallel, at the border of the United States and Canada. The rest of that is all green light.

And so if it weren't for the fear that the billions that would be invested for a real return—not to mention the 100,000 jobs that would be created, if you look at the iterations that come forth from not just the construction of the pipeline but the operation of and the economic development that flows from it, 100,000 jobs. But his speech last night was about jobs, and we can't have the 20,000 jobs instantaneously lit up by the Keystone XL pipeline or the additional 80,000 jobs that flow from the economic development from the Keystone XL pipeline. Why? Not because there is a legitimate environmental concern. There is not one left. Not because, as the President said, he needs more time to study it. There has been 3 years to study it.

Think about how this works if you're the President of the United States. You're constantly barraged with decisions that must be made, and you have set up a network, a pyramid of advisors that filter that. You're only dealing with the most difficult problems that there are. Your subordinates take care of all the other decisions. No one—no matter how smart, no matter how quick—really has the mental space to deal with all of the things that go on here in the United States of America. It is humanly impossible. The President has a series of advisers. They advise him.

The President has said, I haven't had time to study the Keystone XL pipeline. The President of the United States is never going to have time to study all of the nuances that have to do with all of the components of the

Keystone XL pipeline. Hardly any Member of Congress could dedicate a career to know all the things there are to know about the Keystone XL pipeline. It isn't how we make decisions in the real world. It isn't how the President makes decisions in the real world.

What if the Iranians launched a nuke and it was in the air? Would the President say, ''I don't have time to make a decision''? I would like to think not.

□ 1150

I'd like to believe, Mr. Speaker, that the President would make that decision in a split-second heartbeat. In fact, I'd like to believe he had that delegated so there could be instantaneous action and a response, and we could shoot that missile down before it could get over the continental United States and be within the cone of its target. I'd like to think that would happen.

I'd like to think the President had fail-safe systems in place to protect us for national defense. And I'd like to think that he has a system in place where he can trust his advisers to look at something that is conceptually like the Keystone XL pipeline and be able to say, Mr. President, we've studied this for 3 years—if I'm listening to that briefing, it's already cleared a lot for me at that point, and ''what have you found out?'' would be my question if I had to ask it. And the answer would be, there's no environmental risk. Zero.

We have tens of thousands of miles of pipeline that pump a lot of things more toxic than crude oil through it underneath the ground of the United States of America, and the average number of problems we have that I hear about is zero. And so if we had had spills from an oil pipeline, I guarantee you the environmental extremists would have let us know, and they would have embellished it to the point where everybody in America would know about how horrible it might be if one of those pipelines got a crack in it and some oil seeped out.

But instead, environmental extremists come with this argument. My gosh, it goes over the Ogallala Aquifer. It's an important aquifer, a wonderful, freshwater aquifer. They pump water out of it to irrigate and water cattle and people. That's all true.

But also, it's true that there are hundreds of miles of pipeline that run over the top of the Ogallala Aquifer now, and some of them have things in it that are less digestible than the petroleum that's coming out of the oil sands in Northern Alberta. So I don't have heartburn over that because we have already established we can build pipelines effectively and we can build them safely, with a very, very, very minimal risk of any spills. Statistically it's almost zero.

And by the way, Mr. Speaker, I'm not just speaking as someone who has an opinion, having read a briefing document put together by someone else. I'm actually a guy who's gone out and worked on a pipeline, built pipelines. I've been down in the ditch, I've been up on the bank. I've been a swamper on a bending crew. I've been a welding helper. I've built pipelines in Kansas, I've built them in Iowa, and I understand the mechanics of it, and I understand the system. I understand the labor structure, the business component of it.

And by the way, I'd say this to the Keystone XL pipeline people. Let's do this. Let's take the risk. There's a lot of money invested now anyway. This country needs to move forward. This pipeline will be built. It'll either be built with the approval of this President, or it'll be built after the disapproval of the American people elects us a new President.

So why wouldn't we just take this risk and move this ball down the field a little ways, start that investment and build this pipeline in the United States, build all of it that's appropriate. The only thing that can't be done is you can't cross the 49th parallel. You can come down from Canada right up to that line. We don't know how wide our border is. You know, it's infinitely narrow, at least in theory. But let's say a 20-foot section of pipe—that's what I'd leave out.

Build it down from Canada, stop 10 feet from the 49th parallel, take the GPS locator out there, drive a stake in the middle at the border. Step over to the other side. Oh, wait a minute. Bring your passport, then step over to the other side, and start 10 feet south of the 49th parallel and build that pipeline all the way down to the Gulf Coast.

Now we have it all built, except for 20 feet, and we've done it all within the law, all within the regulations. Everything else is all cleared and wide open. That 20-foot section of pipe can sit there then on the spoil pile, can just sit there, and we can look at that for a while. Let's set up a Web cam and a Web site, and then all the American people and everybody around the world, including the oil sheikhs and the oil cartels and those tyrants that are rich with oil money that are getting more and more belligerent in proportion to the oil price, they can watch too on the Web cam, on the Web site, as that piece of pipe 20 feet long sits there waiting for the President to let Hillary Clinton sign the agreement with Canada so that 20-foot section of pipe could be set in place and welded, and then we could open up the valve and send that oil down to the refineries. And oh, what a breath of economic fresh air that would be.

Mr. Speaker, that's what should be done, and with the Web site and the Web camera watching this still piece of pipe sitting there on the spoil pile right at the 49th parallel, what we need to have also is a little counter on there; that is, how many days they've stalled, how long does he have to think about it now, and how much money is being lost and how many jobs are being lost, three little counters there on that Web site, along with the Web cam shot of the still photo of—well, we can make it a video, can't we—of the section of pipe 20 feet long that's sitting there, 10 feet of it to go in Canada, 10 in the United States.

By the way, somebody's going to sign that permit some day, sooner rather than later, whether it is the new Secretary of State that will be appointed by the successor to Barack Obama, or whether it's Hillary Clinton that might sign that agreement.

I'm standing here, Mr. Speaker, saying this will happen. The Keystone XL pipeline will be built. The American people support it. They know it's environmentally safe and sound. The labor unions want it. There is a tugging of war going on within the political support base for the President, and he found himself in a situation where he had to decide between environmental extremists, a very strong base for him, or the labor unions, another strong base for him. He essentially said to America, I'm making a political decision here, and I'm going to go with my environmental extremist friends, and the labor unions are going to have to just swallow this one for a while. That's the answer.

He told us he didn't have time to study, and Congress said you shall come back with an answer within 60 days of whether this is an economic security risk for the United States, this pipeline, whether it needs to be built for economic security reasons or not, national security reasons or not.

Twenty-eight days into the 60 days that he had to study—now, remember, he had all of those 3 years to study like everybody else did, and all of those advisers to synthesize this for him, boil it down and give him one or two or three points, all he really needed to know. But instead, he opted to jump the gun, go only 28 days into the 60-day period of time he had and then say, I didn't have time. How would that be?

What if he had to go out and run a race that was 30 or say 60 laps long, and you run that race for 28 of the 60 laps, and then you go, well, I didn't have time to finish the race so I'm quitting now. Cut this thing off, shut it down.

We know the difference. The American people, Mr. Speaker, know the difference between reasons and excuses. The President has given the lamest of excuses. No thinking person in the country believes that it was a reason that he didn't have time to study the Keystone XL pipeline.

It will be built. We need to build it all within the United States and within Canada, leave out that 20-foot section. For the people that might want to set it as a 50-foot section or a 10-foot section, I'm good with all that. I'm not going to quibble.

I'll just tell you here's what I'll do personally, if you'll let me. I'll go up there and swing that section of pipe into place myself, and I'll go down there and grab the welder, and I'll weld it in place myself. I'll weld my initials

on that pipe, too, while I'm there and the date, and that date and the time will coincide with the last date and time that will be on the Web site that will be ticker tape rolling through, telling us how much money it's costing not to complete that Keystone XL pipeline, how many days it's been, how many jobs it's cost, and this economic development piece.

So a President that comes to the floor and says last night, I'm for all-of-the-above energy policy, well, let's see. Except for the Keystone XL pipeline, except for drilling offshore, if that means actually issuing permits, except for this mystery that how much public lands he's going to hold off of the production. I think we ought to drill all the nonnational park public lands where there's oil. We don't know how much oil there is in the United States. We haven't been able to examine it. We have not committed the resources to do the inventory. We used to have an inventory that there were 406 trillion cubic feet of natural gas available in the United States. We know that number's a lot higher than that now. We've learned how to develop it.

When we look at the fracking technology, that's another thing that the President didn't speak to last night. But if he's for all of the above, the EPA should not be turning over every stone, looking at every geological nook and cranny trying to come up with a way to block fracking, the fracking technology that's opened up so much energy to this country, developed by Americans. We have about 1.2 million utilizations of fracking, and now the EPA has found some elements that could have been potentially used in fracking in a shallow water location someplace in Wyoming that they say could have actually come from a fracking utilization in a well somewhere. They've not tied it together; they just run that red herring up the flagpole, and now the environmentalists can hyperventilate and they can try to find another way to shut down energy production in America.

□ 1200

Why? Mr. Speaker, what's going through the fixed goals of these people. And to the American people, why do they have patience with that kind of thinking, the effort that goes after the economic development efforts in the United States? What's going on?

And here's what's behind it. The President alluded to that last night, too, come to think of it. He said he doesn't think the votes are in this Congress to pass cap-and-tax. Oh, wait a minute. I might have amended the President's quote a little bit, Mr. Speaker. So I'd back up just a little and say he didn't think the votes were here to pass his proposal or his version in his speech last night of cap-and-trade.

No, they aren't. They aren't because the American people have wised up and so have a lot of Members of Congress. And we have 89 new freshman Republicans in this place, many of them the result of what happens when you try to advance bad policies through this Congress.

So the votes aren't there for cap-and-tax, that's true. The EPA is looking to implement it by order of the President, and his public statement that they could implement and promulgate rules and end up with the same thing as cap-and-tax. So underneath that is the almost religious belief by environmental extremists that if you burn petroleum products and these hydrocarbons release into the atmosphere CO_2—and it does, by the way. I can concede that point, the CO_2 in the atmosphere—they believe that is the cause of global warming.

Now, first you have to come to a conclusion that global warming is taking place, and then you have to come to the conclusion that it's an unnatural global warming taking place caused by activity of man. Then you have to conclude the activity of man that causes it is the release and suspension of CO_2 into the atmosphere.

So I listened to all of that, and I say there's a tough equation to make. And it was really hard for the people in the University of East Anglia and Penn State, Michael Mann and some of those other people to make that case. They had to fabricate, remember? Mr. Speaker, they had to fabricate the case for the actual data that would support even that the Earth was getting warmer, let alone the calculations that it's being caused by CO_2 suspended in the atmosphere, let alone that that CO_2 is sourced from industry, let alone that that industry is primarily U.S. industry.

So I just ask a few—you might call them dumb—questions, Mr. Speaker. I might call them simple questions, the basic questions that I sometimes find out nobody asks. Everybody is a specialist nowadays, and they only deal with a component of the overall picture. They don't look at the big picture, be it generalist, they say wait a minute, arrange this all for me so a logical rational deductive mind can come to a conclusion, do that first and then we'll get to the details.

And so the physicists deal with the formulae that are handed to them by the meteorologists; and the data, it comes from other places. They accept what comes to them, and they work within their zone. And then who picks up the whole picture? I don't know.

So I just ask this question: tell me if CO_2 is suspended into the atmosphere by U.S. industry, is the cause of the theory that global warming exists, then would you tell me how much CO_2 is in the atmosphere from the U.S. industry? Because they propose they are going to cut it by one-seventeenth each year until the year 2050.

So if they know the formula that's going to turn down the Earth's thermostat—and, by the way, I spent a lot of my life cold, so I'm not sure that that's a good idea—but I do know that on their comparison chart they have a whole list of bads on one side of the ledger and no list of goods, good things that might happen from a warmer Earth.

So I look at this and I say, all right, so show me, I want to know how much atmosphere has the gravity of the Earth attracted throughout all this time of it orbiting around the Sun and floating through the galaxy. So we get this answer back: it's not a disputed number. The gravity is pulling it so many metric tons. I don't have the number committed to memory, Mr. Speaker, but that is okay. So, fine.

Now we know how much atmosphere there is. Now I'd like to know how much of that atmosphere is CO_2 suspended in it as a result of the cumulative effect of U.S. industry since the beginning of the dawn of the industrial revolution. So that calculated out to be, when we did this, 205 years of industrial revolution.

So we add this all up. I said, now, take all of this atmosphere of the Earth, draw it in a circle for me, two sheets of drywall, so to speak, an 8-foot diameter circle, a little bit higher in my hand all the way around. That's the size of the Earth's atmosphere in your pie chart.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask, think about it. How big a circle would you draw in the middle of that 8-foot diameter circle in order to demonstrate the total volume of the CO_2 that's suspended in the Earth's atmosphere, a cumulative effect for 205 years of the industrial revolution, this thing that we're going to reduce by one-seventeenth of its emissions each year? By the way, that's one-seventeenth of one-two hundred and fifth the first year. We're going to adjust that, and we're going to use that to turn the Earth's thermostat down.

How big is that circle of CO_2 suspended in the atmosphere, 8-foot circle is all the atmosphere? Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to put you on the spot, but I'll just say, here's the answer. One might imagine that it's a 4-foot circle of CO_2 suspended or something that could really impact the Earth's temperature.

Well, it's not. It is .56, Mr. Speaker, just a little over a half an inch in diameter. That's the size of the CO_2 that's suspended in the Earth's atmosphere, the cumulative effect for 205 years of U.S. industry, some of those times that we were belching a lot of the smoke out into the atmosphere from burning raw coal in ways that aren't nearly as clean as they are now.

So I looked at that and I thought, are you kidding me. An 8-foot circle is the Earth's atmosphere, and we're going to take this .56 circle of all the CO_2 that's in there from the U.S., and we're going to reduce that by one-seventeenth, which is actually one-seventeenth of the 205 years that it has accumulated, remember, and we're going to do that for the next 50 years and dial the Earth's temperature down?

What utter arrogance to think that we could do that. Haven't the physicists looked at this, also? I don't think they have.

Then I go back and—see, I'm a generalist, so go across some other studies, Mr. Speaker. I found a book called ''Human Universals,'' and it's written by a Professor Brown from the University of California at Berkeley. I don't usually go there to find my enlightened authors, but he's the only one I could find that actually has written a book on human universals.

What are the common denominators of humanity? What do you see in human beings that has been true since the beginning of time, the first civilization? What did Adam and Eve do, and what did every generation of humanity do that was common to them then that's common to us now and common to every generation across all cultures, civilizations, continents and tribes?

There are a list of about 123 things in his book, and he explains almost all of them. But one of them, Mr. Speaker, this human universal is every generation of man has tried to not just worship the weather, or was affected by the weather. Every generation of man has tried to change the weather, to change the weather. You know, they sacrificed virgins down in Central America and sometimes ripped their heart out and threw them down in the pit, and that was going to change the weather and get it to rain or not rain, as the situation called for.

I just wonder, Mr. Speaker, if this cap-and-tax is not the modern version of the rain dance. And the weather is probably not going to change because we argue in here—and it's probably not going to change because we change the emissions. I think we should, though, put our factories together and control our emissions and have the cleanest atmosphere we can have because it's good for the air we breathe.

But I think it's utter arrogance to believe we're going to adjust the Earth's thermostat with the methodology that we have here. We do know the methodology of cap-and-tax that was advocated by the President last night is a methodology that will transfer our wealth in our industry to countries that care a lot less about the atmosphere, which is my point, Mr. Speaker.

I didn't really intend to go down that path, but I thought it was important to bring it up, and I make another point that came to my attention last night, and it was in the very early part of the President's speech. He spoke of this being the first time in two decades that Osama bin Laden doesn't threaten the American people, a very good thing. I give the President maximum kudos for that and the SEALs, of course. It was the right decision, it was the right order, and it was the right result, a very good thing.

But he went on to say—and, by the way, he delivered that in a subtle fashion that was becoming of the President of the United States in a speech he gave last night—but he went on to say the Taliban's momentum has been broken. I disagree, to this extent: the Taliban's momentum has shifted from military tactical to political.

They have a lot of political momentum. It's not been broken. Their political momentum has been accelerated, Mr. Speaker. I would make this point that if we look at the country of Afghanistan and look back through its history, starting at the end of the seventies and beginning of the eighties—well, when the Russians invaded Afghanistan, the Northern Alliance, the mujahedin, many of them at the time, took on the Russians and fought them through that decade with the help of Charlie Wilson and at least one Member in this Congress seated today, the help from U.S. missiles that took out Russian helicopters.

But the tenacity of the Northern Alliance today, the tribes from the northern part of Afghanistan that took on, that took on the Russians and drove the Russians out of Afghanistan, the Northern Alliance leaders today, the men who mounted horseback and then themselves led the cavalry charge on horseback and attacked Russian tanks with AK–47s in their hands, these courageous men are the men that drove the Russians out of Afghanistan and, at that point, there was a power vacuum.

□ 1210

The Taliban filled up Afghanistan, and we remember what they did. They blew up the Buddhist temples, and they drove the life expectancy of a woman down. The only country in the world to have a lower life expectancy for women than men was Afghanistan. They treated them horribly. Afghanistan was digressing back to the Stone Age. It was a fertile area for al Qaeda training camps. We got hit on September 11. The United States went in to help them with Special Forces. The Northern Alliance rose up again and, with our help, drove the Taliban out of Afghanistan. Then they handed over their heavy weapons and embraced the constitution that was proposed by the United States State Department, accepting that we would look out for their political interests.

And what do they have?

These warriors, who defeated the Russians and the Taliban, who lost their political influence because they trusted the constitution to represent them and who gave up their heavy weapons, are now watching the White House and President Karzai negotiate with the Taliban.

The Taliban's momentum has not been broken. It has been transitioned into political power, and they are looking today to hand political power over to the Taliban in Afghanistan so that the Afghanistan Government will reflect the wishes of the Taliban and less reflect the wishes of the Northern Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, I would inquire as to how much time I might have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. KING of Iowa. So I will take 10 seconds to thank you for your attention and for the opportunity to address you. I appreciate that privilege.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2012 AND THE 10-YEAR PERIOD FY 2012 THROUGH FY 2021

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, Office of the Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: To facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting an updated status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2012 and for the 10-year period fiscal year 2012 through fiscal year 2021. This status report is current through January 19, 2012.

The term 'current level' refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the overall limits set in H. Con. Res. 34, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2012. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2012 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for action completed by each authorizing committee with the ''section 302(a)'' allocations made under H. Con. Res. 34 for fiscal year 2012 and fiscal years 2012 through 2021. ''Action'' refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the budget resolution. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2012 with the ''section 302(b)'' suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is also needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The fourth table gives the current level for fiscal year 2013 of accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 402 of H. Con. Res. 34. This list is needed to enforce

section 402 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Restuccia.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.

STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 34

[Reflecting action completed as of January 19, 2012—On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2012 [1]	Fiscal year 2012–2021
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	2,858,503	n.a.
Outlays	2,947,662	n.a.
Revenues	1,890,365	30,278,654
Current Level:		
Budget Authority	3,012,188	n.a.
Outlays	3,065,929	n.a.
Revenues	1,889,982	30,251,240
Current Level over (+)/under (−) Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	153,685	n.a.
Outlays	118,267	n.a.
Revenues	−383	−27,414

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

[1] Notes for 2012: The appropriate level for FY2012 was established in H. Con. Res 34, which was subsequently deemed to be in force in the House of Representatives pursuant to H. Res. 287. The current level for FY2012 starts with the baseline estimates contained in An Analysis of the President's Budgetary Proposals for Fiscal Year 2012, published by the Congressional Budget Office, and makes adjustments to those levels for enacted legislation.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Budget authority for FY 2012 is above the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

OUTLAYS

Outlays for FY 2012 are above the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

REVENUE

Revenue for FY 2012 is below the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

Revenue for the period FY 2012 through FY2021 is below the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF JANUARY 19, 2012

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2012		2012–2021	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:.				
Allocation	−2,315	−2,228	−177,866	−176,005
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+2,315	+2,228	+177,866	+176,005
Armed Services:.				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Education and the Workforce:.				
Allocation	−4,994	−2,522	−149,437	−133,808
Current Level	+8,690	+3,492	−8,775	−4,630
Difference	+13,684	+6,014	+140,662	+129,178
Energy and Commerce:.				
Allocation	−698	−1,207	−1,365,771	−1,366,350
Current Level	+3,306	+3,306	+4,061	+4,061
Difference	+4,004	+4,513	+1,369,832	+1,370,411
Financial Services:.				
Allocation	−5,986	−6,485	−66,359	−67,488
Current Level	−1,300	−1,300	−35,700	−35,700
Difference	+4,686	+5,185	+30,659	+31,788
Foreign Affairs:.				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:.				
Allocation	−1,900	−1,900	−16,600	−14,100
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+1,900	+1,900	+16,600	+14,100
House Administration:.				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Judiciary:.				
Allocation	−387	−1	−48,087	−47,701
Current Level	−3	−3	−13	−13
Difference	+384	−2	+48,074	+47,688
Natural Resources:.				
Allocation	−239	−190	−10,735	−10,472
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+239	+190	+10,735	+10,472
Oversight and Government Reform:.				
Allocation	−8,102	−8,275	−153,145	−153,302
Current Level	0	−1	0	0
Difference	+8,102	+8,274	+153,145	+153,302
Science, Space and Technology:.				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Small Business:.				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:.				
Allocation	−17,250	−122	−132,784	−4,396
Current Level	−185	0	−1,850	0
Difference	+17,065	+122	+130,934	+4,396
Veterans' Affairs:.				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	−26	−26	−7	−7
Difference	−26	−26	−7	−7
Ways and Means:.				
Allocation	−7,945	−8,020	−1,147,818	−1,148,128
Current Level	+27,276	+27,064	−20,902	−20,983
Difference	+35,221	+35,084	+1,126,916	+1,127,145

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUB ALLOCATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

	302(b) sub allocations as of Jan. 19, 2012 (H. Rept. 112–104)		Current status reflecting action completed as of Jan. 19, 2011		Current status minus sub allocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	17,250	21,452	20,137	23,292	+2,887	+1,840
Commerce, Justice, Science	50,237	62,446	52,944	63,759	+2,707	+1,313
Defense	648,709	654,698	633,229	647,612	−15,480	−7,086

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUB ALLOCATIONS—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	302(b) sub allocations as of Jan. 19, 2012 (H. Rept. 112–104)		Current status reflecting action completed as of Jan. 19, 2011		Current status minus sub allocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Energy and Water Development	30,639	44,577	33,734	46,422	+3,095	+1,845
Financial Services and General Government	19,895	23,523	21,526	25,735	+1,631	+2,212
Homeland Security	40,850	45,122	46,258	45,360	+5,408	+238
Interior, Environment	27,473	30,766	29,175	30,866	+1,702	+100
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	139,218	154,253	156,767	179,569	+17,549	+25,316
Legislative Branch	4,314	4,397	4,307	4,336	−7	−61
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	72,535	78,492	71,747	78,414	−788	−78
State, Foreign Operations	39,569	46,060	53,343	52,880	+13,774	+6,820
Transportation, HUD	47,655	118,272	57,312	122,169	+9,657	+3,897
Subtotal (Section 302(b) Allocations)	1,138,344	1,284,058	1,180,479	1,320,414	+42,135	+36,356
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation)	1,138,344	1,284,058	1,180,479	1,320,414	+42,135	+36,356
Memorandum:						
Emergencies [1]					0	0
Disaster Relief [2]			10,453	1,803	+10,453	+1,803
Program Integrity [3]			483	415	+483	+415
Global War on Terrorism [4]	126,544	64,100	126,544	63,421	0	−679

[1] Pursuant to H. Con. Res. 34, emergencies are not reflected in 302(b) allocations or current level above.

[2] The Budget Control Act (P.L. 112–25), enacted after passage of the FY2012 House Budget resolution, established statutory discretionary spending caps at different levels than the 302(a) allocation set by the budget resolution. Spending designated for disaster relief under section 251(b)(2)(D) was not included within the original 302(a) allocation.

[3] The Budget Control Act (P.L. 112–25), enacted after passage of the FY2012 House Budget resolution, established statutory discretionary spending caps at different levels than the 302(a) allocation set by the budget resolution. Spending designated for Continuing Disability Reviews and Redeterminations under section 251(b)(2)(B) was not included within the original 302(a) allocation.

[4] Section 301 of H. Con. Res. 34, allows the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations to be adjusted by amounts designated for the Global War on Terrorism [GWOT]. The 302(b) allocations and current status above reflect any adjustments made to date for this purpose. Outlays displayed on the GWOT row, represent only new outlays resulting from new GWOT-related budget authority.

2013 Advance appropriations pursuant to H. Con. Res 34 as of Jan. 19, 2012

[Budget authority in millions of dollars]

Section 402(c)(1) Limits	*2013*
Appropriate Level	52,541
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Department of Veterans Affairs	
Medical Services	41,354
Medical Support and Compliance	5,746
Medical Facilities	5,441
Subtotal, enacted advances [1]	52,541

Section 402(c)(2) Limits	*2013*
Appropriate Level	28,852
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Employment and Training Administration	1,772
Office of Job Corps	n.a.
Education for the Disadvantaged	10,841
School Improvement Programs	1,681
Special Education	9,283
Career, Technical and Adult Education	791
Payment to Postal Service	78
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	4,000
Project-based Rental Assistance	400
Subtotal, enacted advances [1]	28,846

Previously enacted advance appropriation [2]	*2013*
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	445
Total, enacted advances [1]	81,832

[1] Line items may not add to total due to rounding.

[2] Funds were appropriated in Public Law 111–117.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, January 25, 2012.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2012 budget and is current through January 19, 2012. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 34, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, as approved by the House of Representatives.

Since my last letter dated December 16, 2011, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, and revenues for fiscal year 2012:

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–74);

Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–77);

Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–78); and

An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research (Public Law 112–80).

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF,
Director.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH JANUARY 19, 2012

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,891,411
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,842,372	1,771,503	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	581,418	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−708,099	−708,099	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	1,134,273	1,644,822	1,891,411
Enacted 1st Session, 112th Congress:			
Authorizing Legislation			
Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection & Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayments Act of 2011 (P.L. 112–9)	0	0	−490
Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2011, Part II (P.L. 112–16)	−185	0	0
Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112–25)	8,690	3,492	0
Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011 (P.L. 112–26)	−26	−26	0
America Invents Act (P.L. 112–29)	−3	−3	−4
An act to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes (P.L. 112–40)	−28	−240	−996
United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 112–41)	53	53	−31
United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 112–42)	−68	−68	−137
United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 112–43)	1	1	118
An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding . . . and for other purposes (P.L. 112–56)	−39	−39	−25
Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (P.L. 112–78)	29,363	29,363	136
An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research (P.L. 112–80)	0	−1	
Total, Authorizing Legislation	37,758	32,532	−1,429
Appropriations Acts:			
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012	−1,000	−1,000	0
Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112–55, Divisions A, B, and C)	242,076	195,617	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112–74)	1,621,868	1,193,967	0
Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112–77)	8,607	1,608	0
Total, Appropriations Acts	1,871,551	1,390,192	0
Total, Enacted 1st Session, 112th Congress	1,909,309	1,422,724	−1,429

FISCAL YEAR 2012 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH JANUARY 19, 2012—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	−31,394	−1,617	0
Total Current Level [1]	3,012,188	3,065,929	1,889,982
Total House Resolution [2]	2,858,503	2,947,662	1,890,365
Current Level Over House Resolution	153,685	118,267	n.a.
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	383
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2012–2021:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	30,251,240
House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	30,278,654
Current Level Over House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	27,414

[1] For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the resolution, as approved by the House of Representatives, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

[2] Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in H. Con. Res. 34, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original House Resolution	2,858,545	2,947,916	1,891,411
Revisions:			
For the United States-Colombia, Panama, Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Acts (section 404)	−14	−14	−50
For an act to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes (section 305)	−28	−240	−996
Revised House Resolution	2,858,503	2,947,662	1,890,365

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, January 27, 2012, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4691. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-11-0057; FV11-906-1 FR] received January 3, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4692. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Bacillus amyloliquefaciens strain D747; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0944; FRL-9330-4] received January 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4693. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8205] received January 3, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4694. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to the Republic of Korea pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

4695. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report on appropriations legislation as required by section 251(a)(7) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act 1985, as amended; to the Committee on the Budget.

4696. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2010 of the Administration on Aging, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3018; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4697. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report on the activities of the National 911 Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4698. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia; Determinations of Attainment of the 1997 Fine Particle Standard for the Metropolitan Washington, DC-MD-VA and Martinsburg-Hagerstown, WV-MD Nonattainment Areas [EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0801; FRL-9616-6] received January 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4699. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Alaska [EPA-R10-OAR-2010-0917; FRL-9616-4] received January 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4700. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Interstate Transport of Pollution Revisions for the 1997 PM2.5 and 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS: ''Significant Contribution'', ''Interference with Maintenance'', and ''Interference with Prevention of Significant Deterioration'' Requirements; Revisions to Regulation No. 3 [EPA-R08-OAR-2007-1037; FRL-9506-8] received January 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4701. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — EPAAR Clause for Compliance with EPA Policies for Information Resources Management [EPA-HQ-OARM-2010-0764; FRL-9616-2] received January 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4702. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; San Joaquin Valley; Reasonably Available Control Technology for Ozone [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0723; FRL-9616-5] received January 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4703. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVUAPCD) [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0547; FRL-9480-1] received January 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4704. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Underground Storage Tank Program: Approved State Program for the State of Oregon [EPA-R10-UST-2011-0097; FRL-9615-4] received January 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4705. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting Biennial report on the Do-Not-Call Registry for FY 2010 and 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4706. A letter from the Secretary, Deaprtment of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4707. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4708. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq

Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the August 21, 2011 — October 20, 2011 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq under Section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-338); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4709. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4710. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4711. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a report justifying the reasons for the extension of locality-based comparability payments to categories of positions that are in more than one executive agency, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5304(h)(2)(C); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4712. A letter from the Chair, Cost Accounting Standards Board, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the Office's final rule — Cost Accounting Standards: Cost Accounting Standards 412 and 413 — Cost Accounting Standards Pension Harmonization Rule received January 6, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4713. A letter from the Chair, Cost Accounting Standards Board, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the Office's final rule — Cost Accounting Standards: Change to the CAS Applicability Threshold for the Inflation Adjustment to the Truth in Negotiations Act Threshold received January 6, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4714. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's report for fiscal year 2011 on competitive sourcing efforts as required by Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, Pub. L. 108-199; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4715. A letter from the Chief, Division of Management Authority, International Affairs Program, Department of Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Regulation that Excludes U.S. Captive-Bred Scimitar-Horned Oryx, Addax, and Dama Gazelle from Certain Prohibitions [Docket No.: FWS-R9-IA-2010-0056] (RIN: 1018-AX29) received January 6, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4716. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting a report on the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act Usage of Act's Antitrust Laws Exemption; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4717. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the fourth of five reports required by Section 1201(c) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) detailing the Department's progress; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4718. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pilot, Flight Instructor, and Pilot School Certification; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: FAA-2006-26661; Amdt. No. 61-129] (RIN: 2120-AI86) received January 3, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4719. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Miscellaneous Amendments; Response to Appeals; Corrections [Docket No.: PHMSA-2009-0151(HM-218F)] (RIN: 2137-AE84) received January 3, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4720. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a semi-annual report to Congress on the continued compliance of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with the Trade Act's freedom of emigration provisions, as required under the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2432(c) and (d); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 3824. A bill to ensure that the Federal Aviation Administration addresses fatigue issues of flight attendants; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. YODER, and Mr. HUELSKAMP):

H.R. 3825. A bill to authorize the use of multifamily housing subject to a mortgage insured under section 207 of the National Housing Act as work force residential housing; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REYES, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. STARK, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 3826. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BARTON of Texas):

H.R. 3827. A bill to repeal the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research program and comparative effectiveness research funding; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Appropriations, the Budget, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP (for himself, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. AKIN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LATTA, Mr. JONES, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H.R. 3828. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require that implementation of the repeal of the former Department of Defense policy concerning homosexual behavior in the Armed Forces not infringe upon the free exercise of religion by and the rights of conscience of members of the Armed Forces, including chaplains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 3829. A bill to require a criminal background check for employees of child care providers, family child care providers, and adults who reside in the private residences of family child care providers in States that receive funds from the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H.R. 3830. A bill to restrict the provision of defense articles and defense services to the Government of Iraq, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TERRY (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 3831. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 3832. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the equalization of the excise tax on liquefied natural gas and per energy equivalent of diesel; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. DREIER, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H. Res. 527. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding Tunisia's peaceful Jasmine Revolution; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BONNER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. CARTER, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. COLE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CRAVAACK, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DENT, Mr. DOLD, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HECK, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HURT, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. LONG, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. RIBBLE,

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SCHILLING, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. TURNER of New York, Mr. WEST, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. TURNER of Ohio):

H. Res. 528. A resolution honoring the service and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H. Res. 529. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should not consider releasing Taliban prisoners, Abdul Haq Wasiq, Mullah Norullah Noori, Mullah Mohammed Fazl, and Mullah Khairullah Khairkhwa, from prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, until Mullah Muhammed Omar has been turned over to United States custody; to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 3824.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 3825.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 3826.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 3827.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Section 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 3828.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 14, which grants Congress the power to ''make Rules for the Government and Regulation of land and naval Forces,''; Article 1, Section 8, Clause 16, which grants Congress the power to ''provide for the organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States''; and the ''free exercise'' clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution, which ensures the right to freely exercise one's religion.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 3829.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H.R. 3830.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill follows the Constitutional prerogatives of Congress under Article I, Section 8, pertaining to the clauses to ''to regulate commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. TERRY:

H.R. 3831.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 3832.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 21: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 104: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 121: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 124: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 190: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 555: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 640: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 680: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 729: Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 750: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 782: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 951: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 1057: Mr. COHEN and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1058: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 1085: Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 1148: Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. CHU, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1179: Mr. CRITZ.

H.R. 1206: Mr. REED, Mrs. ADAMS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1288: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1612: Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 1648: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1697: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 1704: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1712: Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 1739: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 1822: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 1873: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 1897: Mr. TOWNS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1903: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. CLARKE of Michigan.

H.R. 1988: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2052: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 2082: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 2086: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 2179: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 2187: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 2238: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 2245: Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 2376: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2412: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 2444: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 2514: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 2536: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 2557: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 2625: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 2657: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 2772: Mr. RIVERA.

H.R. 2880: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 2955: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 2966: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. FATTAH, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2985: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 3059: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 3204: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 3208: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 3209: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 3276: Mr. MICA, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 3307: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.

H.R. 3314: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3315: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 3337: Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CRITZ, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 3353: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 3401: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 3409: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 3432: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 3455: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 3461: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 3483: Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 3490: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 3515: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 3521: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 3523: Mr. WOLF and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 3533: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

H.R. 3542: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 3545: Mr. ROONEY and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 3548: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. CANSECO.

H.R. 3571: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 3583: Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 3609: Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 3612: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 3623: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3625: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 3638: Mr. COHEN and Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 3643: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 3681: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.

H.R. 3687: Mr. FILNER, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. REYES.

H.R. 3695: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 3702: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 3737: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 3762: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 3770: Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 3778: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 3783: Mr. ISSA, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LONG, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 3794: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 3802: Mr. GOWDY, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 3805: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 3814: Mr. WALBERG.

H.J. Res. 92: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H. Con. Res. 63: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H. Res. 282: Ms. ESHOO and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 480: Mrs. BLACK.

H. Res. 523: Mr. LATTA.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 3784: Mr. LANGEVIN.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RELATING TO DEBT LIMIT INCREASE

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 98 because it is an empty gesture designed to waste time and provide a stage for political posturing.

One hundred and seventy four House Republicans voted for the Budget Control Act in August which raised the federal debt limit and allowed the country to make good on the promises it made to the American people.

Under the Budget Control Act, the debt limit increase that the President is requesting is automatically matched, dollar-for-dollar, by drastic spending cuts that target the poorest among us. Those cuts would hurt the people I represent in California's 37th District, and so I voted against it.

Despite strong opposition from both sides, the Budget Control Act was passed, with a number of useless and unfair provisions, including this disapproval resolution, which lets House Republicans who voted for it in August turn around and withdraw their support.

In this way, they can stand here today and make the same irresponsible arguments that they made last summer. Instead of working together to implement the American Jobs Act which would help create jobs and improve economic growth, they have chosen to squabble over the ability of the President of the United States to do his job.

As ridiculous as it sounds, this is the trick that House Republicans are trying to play. It is entirely symbolic, of course, because if this resolution were to become law, it would result in the first default in U.S. history. A vote for this resolution is a vote against the full faith and credit of the United States and a slap in the face to its citizens.

This kind of behavior is the main reason that Congress has lost the trust of the American people. It creates tremendous uncertainty within the business community and impedes economic growth. It also provides a terrible example to the rest of the world that should be able to look to us for guidance in times of turmoil.

I urge my colleagues to reject this empty legislation and focus on creating a responsible, long-term budget that puts people back to work.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of H.R. 1022, the Buffalo Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act, which will allow the Department of the Interior to study the role of Buffalo Soldiers and how they defended our first national parks. This is a key step in preserving the legacy of the Army's first African American infantry and cavalry units and the contributions they made to our Nation.

Although history has often overlooked the contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers, all Americans from all walks of life would benefit from learning about this often overlooked chapter in our history. The legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers dates back to post Civil War days. Although African Americans have fought with distinction in all of our country's military engagements, their future in the Army was in doubt after the Civil War. In July 1866, however, Congress passed legislation establishing two cavalry regiments and four regiments of infantrymen, later merging two, whose composition was made up entirely of black soldiers. The troopers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries developed into two of the most distinguished fighting units in the Army and who were stationed at Ft. Sill in Oklahoma in the late 1870s. While they constructed key buildings on the post that still stand today, the Buffalo Soldiers' biggest contribution was to preserve the integrity of the land-runs which are such an integral part of Oklahoma, the Sooner state's, history and identity. Their bravery and fierce fighting techniques on the battlefield inspired Native Americans to call them "Buffalo Soldiers."

The Buffalo Soldiers served the United States in the harshest environments and under the most difficult conditions, and preserving their legacy will ensure that the Buffalo Soldiers' service will be appropriately memorialized. The Buffalo Soldiers' story is ultimately about the triumph not just of African American troops over prejudice and injustice, but about the movement of our nation westward, and toward a more tolerant and courageous society.

As such, I support the effort to evaluate the feasibility of a great National Historic Trail along the Buffalo Soldiers' route from their historic military post at the San Francisco Presidio to Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. Identifying properties that could be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or designations as National Historic Landmarks will help keep the Buffalo Soldiers' story alive and bring to light, for future generations, their story of courage while serving their country.

We must all continue to work, together and as individuals, each day to make sure that our country truly is a community of all people and recognize those that came before us to make this nation strong, prosperous and free. We should never forget the challenges our predecessors faced in the creation and preservation of this great nation.

LT. COL. TRACY N. JOHNSON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lt. Col. Tracy N. Johnson (retired). A resident of Montrose Colorado, Lt. Col. Johnson recently celebrated his 90th birthday with a host of family and friends at his side. It is my honor to recognize Lt. Col. Johnson's distinguished Marine Corps career. The sacrifices he has made and the commitment he displayed during his time in uniform and since leaving the active ranks of the Marine Corps are truly deserving of special recognition.

Member of our nation's "greatest generation", Lt. Col. Johnson served his country bravely while flying combat missions in three wars. His action in combat, earned him the Distinguished Flying Crosses and Air Medals, testaments to his courage, patriotism and devotion to duty. Marines serving throughout the world today take great pride in carrying on the illustrious legacy of valor, discipline and steadfast fidelity that he helped forge.

From flying Corsairs in Korea to serving as a Presidential Helicopter pilot for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, he provided crucial air support throughout his career and set the standard for Marine aviation. He has earned the respect and admiration of all who have had the privilege of serving with him, and he has been an inspiration for generations of his fellow Marines.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize and extend my deepest gratitude to Lt. Col. Tracy N. Johnson. I rise today in recognition of his dedication to his family, community, and this nation.

THE RETIREMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in sending a fond aloha to our friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

We have all been deeply touched and inspired by GABBY's courage, spirit, and her pure love for Arizona and our Nation. Her admirers and friends in Hawaii and across the country will continue to pray for her ongoing recovery.

I hope that we in Congress will redouble our efforts to come together and work in the spirit

of laulima (cooperation) to find common ground with our colleagues across the aisle on the issues that matter most to our country. That's how we can truly honor our GABBY's service and courage.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. ROBERT FITCH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Fitch on the occasion of his retirement as Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, for BAE Systems, Inc. One of my constituents living in Arlington, Virginia, Mr. Fitch has over 41 years of distinguished service to our nation, serving in key management positions in the military, the legislative branch of government, and the aerospace and defense industry.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Fitch served as Senior Vice President, Government Relations, for BAE Systems, Inc. He had responsibility for all legislative affairs and government relations activities for the company's U.S.-based business. He is also a member of the BAE Systems, Inc. Board of Directors. As a senior leader in the company during a period of significant change and growth, he has been recognized on numerous occasions for his commitment to excellence and visionary leadership.

Robert previously held the position of Vice President, Government Relations with Marconi North America and Tracor, Inc. Prior to Tracor, he was the Vice President, Corporate Strategic Development for GDE Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of Tracor.

During the 1970's, Mr. Fitch served in the U.S. Army. His assignments included the Pentagon as the Army's functional officer for tactical intelligence programs; Germany as the aide to an infantry division commander; the Cryptologic School as a company commander of 300 men and women; and Vietnam as an advisor. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.

From 1984 to 1993, Mr. Fitch was the Senior Professional Staff Member and Director of the Program and Budget Authorization Staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. His responsibilities included oversight and coordination of staff reviews of national and tactical intelligence activities. Specific areas of specialty included space and airborne reconnaissance, industrial base, acquisition reform and support to military operations. In December 1992, he served on the Intelligence Transition Team for the new administration.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Rhode Island and an MBA from the Graduate School of Management at the University of Dallas. Most recently, Robert completed the Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security at Harvard University.

Mr. Fitch is a member of the George C. Marshall Foundation's Board of Trustees; Ford's Theatre Board of Governors; and the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation's Board of Directors. He is a member of the Sigma Iota Epsilon Business Honor Society, and is a Principal for the Council for Excellence in Government. He has served on the USO World Board of Governors; Board of Directors for the National Military Intelligence Association; and on the Technical Committee of the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of this outstanding industry leader. I congratulate and thank Bob Fitch for his many years of service to this nation and wish him a happy retirement.

CONGRATULATING JIM PARENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jim Parent on his retirement as President of the Connecticut State Council of Machinists.

James M. Parent was born in 1946 in Van Buren, Maine, and now lives with his wife Robertine in Glastonbury where they raised their two children. A former member of the Glastonbury Democratic Town Committee, Jim has also served as Vice Chair of the Democratic State Central Finance Committee.

Jim served his country in Vietnam and returned to continue his public service by joining the labor movement. Jim's knowledge and expertise as an activist for Connecticut's machinists started when he was employed at Pratt & Whitney in 1965 in East Hartford. Since then, Jim has been a fierce advocate for the Machinists' 14,000 members, and has served as the Business Representative for the Machinists Union, Executive Board member of the Connecticut State Council of Machinists and as Hartford Area Vice President from 1986 to 1991, when he was elected President of the Council.

As President, he has been a leading advocate for workers in Connecticut. I witnessed his leadership firsthand when we worked together to fight the closing of the Pratt & Whitney Connecticut Airfoil Repair Operation (CARO) and Cheshire Engine Center.

Jim's advocacy earned him the Connecticut AFL–CIO Leadership Award in 1997. I am proud to call Jim Parent an ally in the fight to keep good jobs in Connecticut, and to stop the crippling trend of outsourcing. We have worked together to bring jobs back to the United States through efforts to strengthen "Buy American" laws. I know that Jim will continue to be a leader and an advocate for Connecticut's working families even after his retirement. I am honored to call Jim Parent my friend, and I wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAYOR HIRAM PALEY

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Mr. Hiram Paley, former Mayor of Urbana, IL, and Associate Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois in Mathematics. Mr. Paley passed away on Monday, January 9, at the age of 78 at the Carle Foundation hospital in Urbana, IL, after his long fight with cancer.

Hiram Paley was an excellent representation of what living the American dream is all about. He was born the son of Russian immigrants and rose above humble beginnings to obtain his doctorate in mathematics with a specialization in algebra. Mr. Paley became a professor at the University of Illinois in 1959 where he would meet his wife of over 50 years, Jean Paley. Together they had three children. He soon became active in the local community, eventually rising to the Office of Mayor for the town of Urbana, IL. He served a single term as Mayor. Afterward, he remained active in community events throughout the rest of his life. He remained always perceptive to the concerns of everyday citizens with whom he interacted.

It is paramount to emphasize that although Hiram Paley was not of the same political affiliation as I, he was always civil and respectful toward individuals who did not share similar political philosophies. This is an underlying theme that we as leaders should glean most from this man's life. This ideal ought to be at the forefront of our debates today. Civility and discourse in politics may seem like a large river, seemingly impossible to cross, but in actuality, our political reality today is but a modest stream that is only in need of leadership to step across and achieve consensus. And that model is what government is truly about. Thank you, Mr. Paley, for your excellent example and extraordinary life, as well as your service to our Nation; you shall be missed tremendously.

IN CELEBRATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2012

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, an appropriate reminder of Dr. King's legacy, the civil rights struggle and the importance of serving one's community to make the country stronger.

Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy is a symbol of the American values of progress, peace, and equality that have come to define American exceptionalism. Although we still have a long way to go to reach Dr. King's promised land, the strides taken toward racial equality since his March on Washington are a testament to the power of his non-violent message.

On this day, we not only celebrate the legacy of Dr. King, but we commit ourselves to giving back to our communities. Dr. King's spirit compels us to use this day to volunteer our time in service of our neighborhoods. This year, millions of Americans across the country demonstrated their commitment to Dr. King's vision of a better world by offering their help to countless service projects and activities nationwide.

Dr. King once said "the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice." It is on this day—nearly 44 years after his death—that we remember his words and continue our struggle toward racial, social, and

economic justice. While an assassin may have felled the Dreamer; the dream of Dr. King still lives in the hearts and minds of people of goodwill everywhere in the world.

In these tough economic times, it is important to remember the message Dr. King espoused—non-violence, determination, peace, and justice. These values have seen us through the tumultuous uproar of the 1960s and continue to persevere today.

Dr. King's words not only inspired social movements in the United States, but were a heavy influence in Poland, the nations of eastern and central Europe, and more recently in Egypt and Tunisia.

Dr. King, Jr., recognized that the struggle for civil rights and workers' rights were inextricably linked. Both required that the basic rights of all people are equal and ought to be honored equally, whether by an employer or by the United States government. It is by the light of his example that we should confront the hardships that face this generation of American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the gift of hope that Dr. King gave to so many and to remember the dream that he so eloquently articulated. We remember Dr. King's sacrifice and resolve to keep his dream alive through tolerance, altruism and community service.

IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION CONTINUING AVIATION AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House of Representatives this week passed legislation to continue vital aviation and surface transportation programs while Congress completes a comprehensive, long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Act. Importantly, the temporary extension contains no negative policy provisions, reductions in funding, or political grandstanding. Rather, it is a clean extension until mid-February.

Aviation and surface transportation programs represent critical elements of our economy. The current extension avoids another Republican-led shut down, as occurred last summer—a shutdown that jeopardized the jobs of tens of thousands of workers and resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue. I also am very pleased that the House of Representatives appointed conferees so that Congress can complete the long-term reauthorization of the important programs related to the Federal Aviation Administration. Our nation enjoys one of the best and strongest aviation systems in the world; Congress must do our part to update and strengthen our aviation laws in a permanent way to provide economic and workforce security and safety related to air transportation. A full reauthorization will improve the safety, efficiency and competitiveness of our aviation system.

MATTOON HIGH SCHOOL BAND STUDENTS SELECTED FOR ALL-STATE

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarah Bradbury, Brittney Evans, and Megan Schuler for their accomplishments in the Mattoon High School band. They have been selected to the All-State Concert Band and the All-State Orchestra. Bradbury, on French horn, will play with the All-State Concert Band while Evans, oboe, and Schuler, trombone, will play with the All-State orchestra. The three will represent the Mattoon High School Pride of the Green Wave Band Program at the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference in Peoria. Rehearsals and performances will take place from Wednesday to Saturday.

This is the highest honor for a junior or senior musician to accomplish; each participant went through a tough audition back in October. "Of the tens of thousands of musicians throughout the state, 300 winds and percussionists are selected from nine districts to participate in the two All-State Concert Bands and Orchestras."

The Mattoon High School Pride of the Green Wave band is directed by Todd Black and James Stanford. I would like to further congratulate these directors on a job well done; everyone's family, community, and school are extremely proud of the accomplishments of Sarah, Brittney, and Megan.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL PRAYER ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today the House considered the World War II Memorial Prayer Act, which I cosponsored and was pleased to vote in favor of. The bill directs the U.S. Department of the Interior to include President Franklin D. Roosevelt's prayer with the nation on D–Day at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.

It is not possible to overstate the importance of D–Day in World War II, or the enormity of the battle the 160,000 Allied troops faced. The victory there allowed 100,000 soldiers to start to march across Europe to defeat Hitler and the Nazi forces. The battle came with an enormous cost; 9,000 soldiers were killed or wounded, including thousands of American troops there to help liberate Europe and win the war.

At home, as the battle was being waged on the beaches of Normandy, President Roosevelt led the nation in a prayer over the radio. The moving prayer concluded with these words:

> With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace—a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil. Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen.

As the author of the original legislation to create the World War II Memorial, I think it is fitting to include President Roosevelt's prayer at the Memorial grounds. The prayer is not only important historically, but it allows us to honor those for whom the country was praying, but also those at home who were comforted by this prayer.

It will be 25 years ago next month that an important question was posed to me at a fish fry in Jerusalem Township, Ohio, by a World War II veteran, Roger Durbin. Mr. Durbin was a veteran of World War II and he wanted to know why there was no memorial for the war in our nation's capital. We set to work together, and 17 years later the nation dedicated the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, Roger passed away before the dedication. But I am sure he would be pleased with the passage of this bill here today.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize January 22–28, 2012, as National School Choice Week. Our children are the future of this great Nation, and they should be able to attend the highest-quality schools possible. Improving the quality of education and expanding access to highly effective schools is an important step toward ensuring that all of our children receive the best possible education in America.

This week, more than 400 events will be held in all 50 states to advance and support school choice. Tens of thousands of Americans will be taking part in these events including parents, teachers, and guardians responsible for taking care of our Nation's children. America is blessed to have a multitude of high-quality public schools, public charter schools, and nonpublic schools, as well as many high-quality teaching professionals who are committed to educating our children.

This past year, my home State of Indiana enacted meaningful and comprehensive education reform that provides parents with the freedom to make sure their child gets the best education possible. And last year I was proud to support Speaker BOEHNER's Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (H.R. 471) when it passed the House of Representatives. The SOAR Act allows for education scholarships to be provided to children in the District of Columbia so that they can receive a high quality education regardless of their race or income status in society. Research demonstrates conclusively and consistently that providing children with multiple schooling options improves academic performance and parental satisfaction.

And so I rise today in strong support of National School Choice Week because I support empowering parents with school choice. Every

child must have the opportunity to pursue the American dream, and I firmly believe parents are in the best position to determine which schools their children should attend. As a parent myself, I am proud to celebrate National School Choice Week, and I look forward to continuing to advocate for local control of education and for further opportunities to provide parents with the ability to give their children the best education possible.

EXAMINING ONGOING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN VIETNAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I chaired a hearing to examine the ongoing human rights situation in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese Government continues to be an egregious violator of a broad array of human rights. Our distinguished witnesses who testified before me yesterday provided detailed accounts; I would like to highlight just a few areas of grave concern.

Despite the State Department's decision in 2006 to remove Vietnam from the list of Countries of Particular Concern as designated pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act, Vietnam, in fact, continues to be among the worst violators of religious freedom in the world. According to the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom's 2011 Annual Report, ''[t]he government of Vietnam continues to control religious communities, severely restrict and penalize independent religious practice, and brutally repress individuals and groups viewed as challenging its authority.'' I agree with USCIRF's conclusion that Vietnam should be designated a CPC country.

The State Department's designation of Vietnam as a Tier 2 Watch List country with respect to the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking also needs to be critically examined. The Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report states not only that Vietnamese women and children are being sexually exploited, but that there are severe labor abuses occurring as well—with the government's complicity. The Report acknowledges that state-affiliated and state-licensed labor export companies engage in numerous trafficking-related violations, including fraud and the charging of illegal commissions for overseas employment. There also are documented cases of recruitment companies ignoring pleas for help from workers in exploitative situations.

As the sponsor of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, I am deeply disturbed that the Tier Rankings are not being better utilized by our State Department to pressure Vietnam to correct the trafficking abuses occurring within its government, not to mention those in the private sector.

We were particularly privileged to have Ms. Phong-Anh Vũ with us to testify about the horrific suffering she endured when she was trafficked from Vietnam to Jordan. It is also troubling to hear about the abuse that she and others have continued to endure at the hands of the Vietnamese Government even after their escape from their traffickers. I greatly admire her courage and the Subcommittee is most appreciative the testimony she presented yesterday.

I met other courageous individuals during my last trip to Vietnam who were struggling for fundamental human rights in their country. Unfortunately, many of them continue to be persecuted by the government. Father Ly is in prison and is suffering from very poor health, and Attorney Nguyen Van Dai remains under house arrest.

Despite this dismal status for human rights in Vietnam, there are new opportunities for the United States to exert pressure on the government to cease these abuses.

H.R. 1410, the Vietnam Human Rights Act which I introduced last year—and which passed the House previously in 2007—would provide significant motivation to the government of Vietnam to respect its international human rights obligations. It would prohibit any annual increase in the amount of non-humanitarian assistance that the United States provides to Vietnam unless there is an equal or greater increase in the amount of assistance for human rights and democracy promotion programming in Vietnam.

An increase in non-humanitarian assistance would also be prohibited unless Vietnam satisfies certain requirements, including substantial progress toward respect for the freedom of religion and freedom of expression and assembly, respect for ethnic and minority rights, and allowing Vietnamese nationals free and open access to United States refugee programs. The government would also have to end its complicity in severe forms of human trafficking.

In addition, this legislation would reaffirm the United States' commitments: to overcoming the jamming of Radio Free Asia by the Vietnamese Government; to engaging in cultural exchanges in a manner that promotes freedom and democracy in Vietnam; and to offer refugee resettlement to Vietnamese nationals who have been deemed ineligible solely due to administrative errors or for other reasons beyond their control.

I thank all of our witnesses for appearing before the Subcommittee yesterday.

HONORING THOMAS W. KLENDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas W. Klender. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Thomas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas W. Klender for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CARRIE NOVICK

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to honor Ms. Carrie Novick on the occasion of her retirement. Since 1990, Carrie has served as the airport manager for Roberts Field, Redmond Municipal Airport in Redmond, Oregon. She will leave her position next Tuesday after nearly 22 years of exemplary public service to the citizens of Redmond and central Oregon.

During her tenure as airport manager, Carrie has transformed a sleepy municipal airfield into a first class regional transportation hub. Nearly two years ago, Carrie completed an airport terminal expansion project that more than doubled the size of the existing airport to 136,000 square feet, tripled its operations capacity to 45 flights per day, and allowed for more than 200,000 passengers per year to pass through its gates. For nearly ten years, Carrie worked passionately to make this fantastic project a reality.

Carrie's tenacity and good stewardship of public resources modernized the facility, increased flight availability, and improved passenger safety and services. Carrie fulfilled her vision to transform the Redmond Airport into a regional economic engine powering tourism, trade, and industry, all while improving the quality of life for area residents.

Carrie has always been eager to share her vision and passion for her work. She always made an effort to meet me whenever I was flying to or departing from the airport to brief me on the latest airport developments, offer her counsel on aviation policy, or just share a cup of coffee with me at the gate. I will miss her candor, quick wit, and indomitable spirit. I'm proud to call her my good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Carrie Novick for her outstanding contributions to the city of Redmond and the communities of central Oregon, and to wish her well upon her retirement. Carrie has given her time and efforts selflessly to the region and her service is worthy of the highest praise. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING GUNNERY SERGEANT WILLIAM ''DENNY'' WEISGERBER

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and unwavering dedication of Staff Sergeant William ''Denny'' Weisgerber, United States Marine Corps (retired). Weisgerber is a true hero and symbol of pride for the Bay Area.

Denny Weisgerber served on active duty in the United States Marine Corps from February 1949 to May 1953. Serving as the assistant platoon Sergeant, Weisgerber saw combat action in Korea on Bunker Hill, Reno, Vegas, Seattle and Warsaw Outposts, in front of the

main line of resistance known as the ''Hook,'' on the Jamestown Line. It was during an assault on the outpost Seattle, in front of the Jamestown Line, when Weisgerber was severely wounded. He refused medical treatment and courageously moved forward to aid a wounded comrade, fearlessly exposing himself to intense hostile fire. His wounds later resulted in the loss of his leg. In recognition of his bravery and valor, he was awarded the Navy Cross and Purple Heart for his actions that night. During this time, Weisgerber was on track to receive a promotion. Unfortunately, he was medically discharged due to the wounds he received at outpost Seattle, thus making him ineligible for promotion.

Weisgerber returned to the United States to start his family with his high school sweetheart and wife Marianne, eventually settling in the Bay Area. Despite being medically discharged and now age 81, Weisgerber has remained committed to the Marine Corps and continues to serve and exhibit true volunteerism. He helps young Marines adjust to civilian life, find jobs, and obtain military benefits once they leave the service. Weisgerber continues to counsel generations of amputee veterans and other returning veterans at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital and the Menlo Park Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Center. His own story of perseverance is an inspiration to wounded veterans and to the entire Marine Corps. In my district, the Marines of the 4th Marine Logistic Group, Marine Forces Reserve always speak highly of Weisgerber, often praising him as the epitome of the Marine Corps. He is continuously present, providing a helping hand to the Marines in every possible way.

Weisgerber's commitment extends to the broader community as well. He served three terms as the Mayor of Milpitas and currently sits on numerous boards and commissions in the Bay Area on issues ranging from transportation to veterans' affairs. His accomplishments in the community are noteworthy, and they speak to a lifetime spent dutifully serving others.

William D. Weisgerber has worked tirelessly for the past 58 years as a ''retired'' Marine and has asked for nothing in return. However, grateful Marines touched by Weisgerber's unwavering service have campaigned on his behalf to see that he is deservedly recognized. On December 5, 2011, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, in accordance with section 1563 of title 10, U.S. Code, approved the honorary promotion of Staff Sergeant Weisgerber to Gunnery Sergeant due to his selfless dedication to our country.

Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, January 28th 2012, Staff Sergeant William ''Denny'' Weisgerber will finally receive the promotion that he has deserved for six decades. I proudly commend Gunnery Sergeant William ''Denny'' Weisgerber for his commitment and noble service to our Marines, veterans, community and country. His daily sacrifice to our community and the Marine Corps is extraordinary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 23, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall vote No. 5 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3117, as amended) and ''yes'' on rollcall vote No. 6 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1141).

RECOGNIZING COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the important contributions of Colonel Charles Young, a Buffalo Soldier whose historic home is in my community in Southwest Ohio.

As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee and Co-Chair of the House Historic Preservation Caucus, I have the privilege of frequently working with our servicemembers as well as a great appreciation for our nation's historic treasures.

Colonel Young, the third African-American to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1889, was a distinguished officer in the U.S. Army. He was a pioneer of military intelligence techniques, a commander of troops in combat in the Spanish-American War and the Mexican expedition against Pancho Villa.

His first assignment after graduation was with the Buffalo Soldiers in the 10th Cavalry in Nebraska, and then with the 9th and 10th Cavalries in Utah. With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, he was reassigned as Second Lieutenant to training duty at Camp Alger, Virginia.

In 1903, then-Captain Young was in command of the 10th Cavalry stationed at the Presidio of San Francisco. That summer, with the Army responsible for its management, Colonel Young was assigned to serve as Acting Superintendent of Sequoia National Park in California.

Colonel Young was then awarded a commission as a Major in the Ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Later, during the Spanish-American War, he commanded a squadron of the 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers in Cuba. Throughout his military career, Colonel Young distinguished himself in service to our nation with the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries, and the 25th Infantry, as well as serving as Professor of Military Science at Wilberforce University, Ohio.

Today we seek to honor the continuing legacy and leadership of the Buffalo Soldiers. Colonel Charles Young stands out as a shining example of the dedication, service, and commitment of the Buffalo Soldiers throughout United States and world history.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to recognize the important historical contributions of Buffalo Soldiers such as Colonel Young.

HONORING LUCAS J. OBORNY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lucas J. Oborny. Lucas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Lucas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Lucas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Lucas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lucas J. Oborny for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and celebrate the beginning of the Chinese New Year. On January 23, 2012, we marked year 4710 of the lunisolar Chinese calendar. In my Congressional District, in the windy city of Chicago, there are well over 68,000 Chicagoans with Chinese heritage. We are very proud that Chicago boasts one of the largest populations of Chinese Americans, with the second largest Chinatown in the nation. Many of these Chicagoans reside or work in the historical neighborhood of Chinatown just south of the loop area. Chicago was one of the first cities that Chinese immigrants called home, with the first immigrants arriving during the 1870s. Since then, the Chinese community in Chicago has flourished and greatly enriched the culture and heritage of our city.

This New Year is the Year of the Dragon, the most powerful of all the animals—an animal whose power and strength are admired. The Chinese New Year is a chance for a new beginning and a chance for all of us to reflect on our blessings, such as family, friends, opportunities and cherished moments. The New Year also provides an opportunity for us to settle our disputes with loved ones and to help people less fortunate than we are. I am blessed with having many close friends within the Chinese-American community. I have shared many important moments with these friends, both in Chinatown and at my house on the West Side. Through these relationships, I have developed a profound appreciation for Chinese culture, including the Chinese New Year celebration.

I recognize the new beginning brought by the spring festival, and I wish the Chinese community in Chicago and in the United States a memorable and prosperous New Year. I look forward to celebrating the Year of the Dragon on January 29 with the annual Chinese New Year parade. Aside from this incredible celebration, there are multiple opportunities throughout the year to experience the history and culture of the Chinese-American community, be it the dragon boat races, the concerts in Ping Tom Park, or the tours of our historic China Town. I wish all a Gong Hei Fat Choy.

HONORING SAMUEL T. NAGORNEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel T. Nagorney. Samuel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Samuel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel T. Nagorney for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ROE V. WADE ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an incredible milestone. Thirty-nine years ago from this past Sunday, the Supreme Court of the United States guaranteed the women of this country our right to privacy. In handing down the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, the justices of the Supreme Court affirmed the right for American women to keep medical decisions between women and their doctors.

This right was not easily won, and it has not come without four decades of fighting to protect it. And yet today, some are still trying to strip women of this right.

Many of those who seek to overturn Roe claim to be protecting life—but it's no secret that making abortion illegal won't end the problem of unplanned pregnancies in this country.

In fact, legal abortion keeps women more safe. In 1965, almost 20 percent of all maternal deaths were due to illegal abortion—and that's only what was reported.

So in looking ahead for 2012, I invite my anti-choice colleagues to consider this: instead of working against us by voting to defund title X programs for women who need them most, work with us in a shared goal of making abortion safe, legal, and rare. That is what the pro-choice movement stands for.

I was 6 years old when Roe v. Wade was handed down, and never in my life have I felt that my rights were threatened like I do now.

Last year alone, 69 laws containing 92 anti-abortion provisions were enacted in 24 states—and my home State of Florida was unfortunately responsible for several of them.

But the problem isn't only at the State level—last year, the Republican majority in the House took up a slew of bills that tried to do everything from defund Planned Parenthood, a crucial title X provider in our country, to redefine rape to say that if the victim was mentally unable to consent, then it didn't really count as forcible rape.

These bills are insulting and dangerous to women's health and wellbeing, something that we as Members of Congress should be working together to protect.

In this spirit, I remind my anti-choice colleagues that the concern for human life and dignity cannot end at birth. So, it is my sincere hope that in the budget bills we will soon take up, all Members work to pass a budget that holds women and children harmless, placing important programs like title X family planning, Head Start, and Maternal and Child Block Grants at the top of the priority list. In these trying financial times, we cannot afford to balance our budget on the backs of women and children.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to note this anniversary with the gravity it deserves, as well as the energy it will require to work to ensure that next year at this time, we are once again commemorating this crucial right as protected by the Supreme Court, and not lamenting yet another year in which this right has been assailed. Women's lives depend on it!

HONORING BLAKE TAYLOR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Blake Taylor. Blake is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 354, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Blake has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Blake has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Blake has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Blake Taylor for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MICHAEL BOZICK TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Mr. Michael Bozick, a highly respected and honorable community leader in the district which I have the honor of representing in Congress.

I am deeply grateful for the contributions Mr. Bozick has made to our desert community, and on behalf of the people I represent, I extend sincere appreciation for all he has done to enhance our local economy and improve the lives of area residents. Mike Bozick has made a difference because of his passion for serving the community, his achievements in industry, and his love of our region. In particular, he has helped countless young people through his support of the Coachella Valley Boys & Girls Club, along with numerous other worthwhile charitable organizations and causes.

A generous and devoted family man, Mike Bozick's story is the embodiment of the American dream. Born to a Yugoslavian immigrant family in Masontown, Pennsylvania, he moved to Southern California as a young man. After graduating summa cum laude from the University of Southern California, Mike began working in the table grape industry in the mid–1960s, assisting his family with operations at Richard Bagdasarian, Inc., a table grape production company based in California's Coachella Valley. It was during this period that Bozick's passion for the grape industry grew, and he soon developed into an effective and highly regarded leader within the agricultural industry.

Mike Bozick recently completed his 39th year of service as a California Table Grape Commission Board Member, an organization which strives to maintain and expand current markets to new and larger markets for fresh California grapes, both domestically and internationally. As Chairman of the Board, Mike has introduced new and innovative ideas, such as promoting table grapes from all of the commission districts, a rarity in the past since many districts have overlapping markets. His ideas certainly paid off. By 2010, national sales of California table grapes grew to a shipment of 98 million boxes per year—a substantial increase from 20 million in the 1960s. As someone who is deeply committed to the growth of our local economy and the creation of jobs in our region, it is very gratifying to see the expansion and growing popularity of one of our most prized and valued industries, due in large part to Mike's perseverance, passion and dedication.

While Mike has made many contributions to the table grape industry, it is his hard work, entrepreneurial spirit and unwavering generosity that impresses me most. He is the fulfillment of the all-American notion that hard work and dedication pay off, and he has used his success to benefit others and provide an example for young people everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Michael Bozick for his exemplary record of service and contributions to the people of the Coachella Valley, the California Table Grape Commission, the greater table grape industry, and in sending best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING MATTHEW WILKS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Wilks. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 354, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Wilks for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall No. 7, rollcall No. 8, and rollcall No. 9 on January 24, 2012, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on H. Res. 516, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the passage of a fiscal year 2013 Federal budget is of national importance. I would have voted ''yea'' on H.R. 2070. And I would have voted ''yea'' to instruct conferees to file a conference report on the Payroll Tax Cut no later than February 17, 2012.

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN STEVEN PALAZZO ON THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN EUGENE P. LUND

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, last week our country lost a true American hero, my uncle, Captain Eugene P. Lund. Captain Lund died on the Mississippi Gulf Coast at the age of 78.

My uncle was a graduate of Notre Dame and the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School with degrees in engineering, and from The George Washington University with a masters degree in management.

While in the Navy, he was a carrier fighter pilot and commanding officer of a fighter squadron serving with distinction in over 250 missions during Vietnam.

He was awarded the Bronze Star, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, 19 additional Air Medals and numerous other awards for his service to our Nation.

He also headed the Navy team that designed and developed the F/A–18 aircraft.

Before retirement, he served as the Director of the Naval Weapons Engineering Support Activity providing engineering assistance and consultation on many naval aviation and weapons programs. He retired after 25 years of service to our country in the Navy.

My heart goes out to the rest of our family, especially my Aunt Virgie. The men and women who serve our country in uniform are the bravest and most selfless in the world. I ask that all of my colleagues strive to remember that every day.

Uncle Geno, may your journey to Christ be of ''Fair winds and following seas and long may your big jib draw.''

HONORING ERIC BROWN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eric Brown. Eric is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 714, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Eric has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Eric has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 41 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Eric has served his troop in many leadership roles, including Patrol Leader, Treasurer, Bugler and Scribe. Eric has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Eric directed the installation of barbeque grills, a walkway between a shelter house and gazebo, and landscaped a rock garden and a rose garden in the New Market Christian Church Community Park in New Market, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Eric Brown for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LAWRENCE KENNETH DAVIS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Lawrence Kenneth Davis, Korean War Veteran and father of California State Assemblyman Mike Davis.

Lawrence Davis died on Saturday, December 4, 2011, at his home in Long Beach. He was 81 years old.

Mr. Davis was born on June 27, 1930 in North Carolina. After graduating from Highland High School in his home state, he went on to attend college at Johnson C. Smith University where he served as a member of the Varsity Football team. While there he met Myrtle Elizabeth Antrum, who he would later marry. After graduation, Lawrence began his career as a faithful employee of Piedmont Heat Treating Company.

Mr. Davis was full of life, eager to learn and deeply involved in his community. While employed at Piedmont Heat Treating Company, Davis worked diligently to receive certification as a metallurgical technician. Mr. Davis' strong work ethic and passion for his trade was demonstrated in whatever task he was assigned.

After his time at the Piedmont Heat Treating Company, Mr. Davis became the Chief of Security at Burt Lynn Middle School where many took note of his passion for his job. He also worked as a referee at local basketball games and entertained the audience with tunes such as ''The Stars and Stripes Forever'' and would ''wow'' the crowd with his roller skating skills.

After moving to California, Mr. Davis' love for learning would lead him to enroll in Los Angeles Trade Technical College where he earned his Associate's Degree in Science. It was in Los Angeles that Lawrence Davis chose to raise his family. His son, Mike Davis, would go on to become a member of the California State Assembly and Vice Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on Mr. Davis life let us remember his commitment, love, and passion for service to his community and his country. His inquisitive and youthful nature left a lasting impression on those he encountered every day.

I would like to request a moment of silence in his honor and memory.

HONORING MICHAEL A. JONES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael A. Jones. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Michael has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael A. Jones for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS ''FRANNIE'' DRUMMOND

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, our hometown hero Francis ''Frannie'' Drummond was born to Mary and Francis Drummond on October 15, 1949. Frannie was one of five children. Locally raised in Langhorne, he attended Our Lady of Grace grade school and went on to graduate from Egan High School in 1967.

Recently graduated and unsettled with his job, a very young Fran decided to enlist before he was drafted into the service. Intending to first join the army with his friend, he switched gears to the Marine Corp after seeing a Marine in his dress blues. Fran served as a Lance Corporal under Fox Company Second B. 7th Marines in South Vietnam during the height of the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam conflict. Unspeakable war time horrors were abated by Fran's undefeated boxing abilities

for his company. Days were made a little brighter by mom's daily letters from home.

Fran's homecoming in 1970 darkened by the protestors of the Vietnam War at the airport was further darkened by the death of his father on the night of his return.

Moving ever forward, a determined Fran went on to work for the United Postal Service, a job he would hold for forty years. Fran worked equally as hard to capture the heart of his true love, Audrey Foley. Married in 1972, the soul mates were blessed with 2 children, Frannie and Jennifer, whom they raised on the family land nicknamed ''Drummondville'' where they were fortunate enough to build their own home. Summer vacations then and now are spent enjoying the sunny beaches of Ocean City, only now Fran and Audrey enjoy the company of their grandchildren, Aiden, Morgan, Ashley, Alley and Leighton.

Physically active and fit throughout his adult years, Fran played softball in the mens Lower Bucks league. Fran also proved to be Bucks County's own Jack La Lanne in fitness and weight lifting.

Ever a good Catholic boy, Fran can be found at daily mass at his home parish of Our Lady of Grace thanking God for the blessings of his life. He spends his Sundays as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion delivering to the residents of Langhorne Manor Nursing Home.

A tireless advocate for Veterans and their needs, Fran serves as the Jr. Vice Commander for Disabled Veterans and is a very active member of the American Legion for the Veterans of foreign wars. He personally drives veterans to and from their doctor and hospital appointments, the Veterans Administration building or wherever they may need to go. In addition to taking the Veterans where they need to go, he also lends a hand with their home and auto repairs.

No task is too small or large when it comes to lending a helping hand for this Marine. One particular life changing incident during Fran's tour in Vietnam proved to be an extreme example of Fran's life's motto ''Leave no man behind.''

Huddled in a sandbag bunker somewhere in South Vietnam, Fran and fellow Marines were trying to stay alive and dry during a driving monsoon when the bunker collapsed due to the heavy rain fall. The collapse trapped Fran and his fellow soldiers who quickly became neck deep in mud and rain water. Refusing to give up, Fran crawled forward dragging a fellow soldier to safety. Holding the roof up, reportedly 2 tons of weight, soldiers were able to crawl to safety. Severely injured, unable to walk, knowing one fellow soldier remained in the crushed bunker, Fran crawled to a nearby bunker alerting them of his injured buddy. Helicopters transported the injured Marines to area hospitals never again to see each other. Birdman, Messler and other soldiers are alive today because of Fran Drummond's heroic actions. These men call Fran their savior and know without Fran's help they would not be alive today nor have families of their own. Ever faithful Fran knows that someone more powerful was with him that day, his savior Jesus Christ.

Fran's commitment to America and its citizens is a shining example of what makes this country strong. Raised by his parents, Marines themselves, Frannie has spent his entire life in service to his family and fellow man. He has gone beyond the call of duty serving and protecting us all, indeed making the United States a safer and better place to live.

He is an honorable man, a leader, a marine, and our hero. Semper Fi.

INTRODUCING THE AIRLINE FIRST RESPONDER WORKPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a bill that I'm introducing today, the Airline First Responder Workplace Fairness Act.

As the world's most geographically isolated archipelago, my home State of Hawaii is uniquely dependent upon air travel. It is the primary mode of transportation for people travelling to Hawaii from the U.S. mainland and other countries—as well as from island to island.

Flights to and from Hawaii are long. They cover vast expanses of ocean and cross several time zones. Because of these unique circumstances, I am acutely aware of the importance of ensuring that the members of every flight crew are rested and alert while doing their duties.

The legislation that I'm introducing today is designed to strengthen necessary workplace protections for flight attendants to enhance the safety of the travelling public.

This bill will help put in place commonsense policies to prevent flight attendant fatigue. These are the same types of policies that the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 required for pilots. That legislation passed the House by voice vote and the Senate by unanimous consent.

I believe passage of that legislation was a strong statement that Congress recognizes fatigue is clearly detrimental to air crews' ability to do their jobs safely—and to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

Unfortunately, the legislation and rulemaking that provided pilots with standards to guard against fatigue failed to include flight attendants.

However, Congress had previously enacted legislation that directed the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI) to study the topic of flight attendant fatigue. Funding to carry out this study has already been appropriated and the study has been completed. The results of the Civil Aerospace Medical Institute's study support the conclusion that action on this front is needed.

The study has found that ''fatigue is a pervasive condition across the flight attendant community.'' Moreover, in June of 2007, the former international president of the Association of Flight Attendants, Patricia Friend, testified before the House Aviation Subcommittee on flight attendant fatigue. She indicated that since 9/11 the security responsibilities of flight attendants have greatly increased. Flight attendants must always be vigilant of what is going on in the aircraft cabin—and, as I'm sure we all know, fatigue seldom makes one more vigilant.

To underscore this point, I'd like to highlight a quote from a flight attendant's safety report filed with NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System. This person said, ''I am filing this report because I was so tired I don't know if I made any mistakes. I know the trip was legal, but it wasn't humane.'' Another flight attendant reported that she had to pinch herself just to stay awake.

That quote should be a chilling call to arms. No one, in any occupation, should ever be so exhausted that they have to pinch themselves to stay awake, or be unable to remember if they've made a mistake at work. That type of environment is bad for workers and bad for the people who are depending on these workers to safely do their job.

My legislation will move past the study stage and take the next step toward ensuring the safety of both our in-flight workforce and the travelling public, while doing so in a collaborative manner that includes input from the aviation industry.

The bill does this by directing the Federal Aviation Administrator to establish an Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) comprised of aviation industry stakeholders, labor representatives, and safety experts.

This ARC would then have 1 year to examine the findings and recommendations of the CAMI study, and develop its own recommendations for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to utilize in developing a final regulation. The FAA would then have 1 year to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking on the issue, and would then be required to issue a final rule 18 months after that.

I believe that this legislation sets out a fair, collaborative timeline for dealing with this important issue and ensuring the safety of both our in-flight workforce and the travelling public.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to see this important legislation advanced.

HONORING PASTOR PHILLIP L. FERRELL OF MT. HERMON BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Phillip L. Ferrell, for his 19½ years of pastoral service to Mt. Hermon Baptist Church and for his eight years of service to the Ministers' Alliance of Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor and Vicinity, where he has served as President. As friends and family and community members gather on Friday, January 27, 2012, I would like to offer my appreciation for Pastor Ferrell's passion, dedication and commitment to Mt. Hermon Baptist Church and the Washtenaw County community.

Pastor Ferrell was born and raised in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and has spent a lifetime working to make our community a better place. His teachings and influence have not been reserved to the church; however, as he has accepted the call to action on several occasions, locally and across the State of Michigan. Pastor Ferrell served as a member of Governor Jennifer Granholm's Faith Based Advisory committee, as a member of the Ypsilanti Public Schools Emergency Crisis Team, as a Board Member of the local N.A.A.C.P., and as a member of the Washtenaw County Literacy Council. He has also shared his knowledge

with our young people as an instructor in the Huron Valley District Congress of Christian Education, and is currently teaching in the Renaissance Christian Leadership School under the National Baptist U.S.A. Sunday School Publishing Board.

Pastor Ferrell has been a trusted leader, a wise teacher, a loving husband, father and grandfather, and a dear friend to many. Deborah and I are not alone in celebrating the long, meaningful and positive impact that Pastor Ferrell and his lovely family have had in my district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday January 23, 2012 I was unavoidably absent from the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 5 and 6.

IN MEMORIAM OF REPRESENTATIVE ED JENKINS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the passing of one of my dear friends, former Congressman Ed Jenkins of Georgia. Ed served in the House of Representatives from 1977 to 1993. He was a strong advocate for his district and for this country. Throughout his time in Congress, Ed was a leader in protecting the South's textile industry. He was a champion for the workers in those factories and communities who depended on them for their livelihood.

Edgar Jenkins was born in Young Harris, Georgia, on January 4, 1933. He graduated from Young Harris College in 1951. Before he got his law degree from the University of Georgia, he served admirably in the United States Coast Guard for three years. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General in Georgia from 1962 to 1964.

Throughout his tenure, Ed was well-admired by many for his knowledge and devotion to the issues. He protected workers throughout the country by strongly advocating keeping textile jobs in the United States. He pushed for the Textile and Apparel Trade Enforcement Act, ultimately helping its passage in the United States House of Representatives. It was his behind-the-scenes efforts that made him one of the most admirable and intelligent members of Congress.

Congressman Jenkins represented his country with distinction during difficult points in American history. His contribution to this country and the people of Georgia will not soon be forgotten.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

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 $4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is $15,236,236,452,380.40. We've added $10,434,831,277,086.12 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. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall No. 5 and rollcall No. 6 on January 23, 2012, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted to suspend the rules and pass both H.R. 1141 and H.R. 3117.

RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS NATIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take the opportunity to recognize January as National Glaucoma Awareness Month. Glaucoma is an insidious class of diseases that robs hundreds of thousands of Americans of their sight. The Glaucoma Research Foundation reports that over 2.2 million Americans have glaucoma, with approximately 120,000 Americans being blind as a result of the disorder.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness and accounts for between 9 percent to 12 percent of all cases of blindness. Glaucoma affects people of all ages but is more common among people who are middle-aged or elderly. As with many health problems, glaucoma disproportionately affects people of color, with glaucoma representing the leading cause of blindness for African American and Latino individuals. Research indicates that this group of eye diseases is 6 to 8 times more common in African Americans than Caucasian Americans. Those who are diabetic or severely nearsighted are further at heightened risk for developing glaucoma.

Glaucoma presents few if any symptoms of its onset; those affected can lose as much as 40 percent of their vision prior to noticing the vision loss. Unfortunately, there is no cure for glaucoma; however, amazing advances are occurring to prevent further visual loss. Medications that slow the progression are critical and steps toward optic nerve cell regeneration are being made. I am proud that many skilled researchers in Chicago are working to advance the prevention and treatment of glaucoma, including experts at Rush University Medical Center, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Northwestern University Medical School.

National Glaucoma Awareness Month is designed to raise awareness of this group of eye diseases and to encourage individuals to get tested. Given the lack of cure for glaucoma, early detection is incredibly important. Thus, I lend my voice to the cause of raising awareness of glaucoma and encouraging Americans to get regular eye exams to identify early any potential visual problems.

A TRIBUTE TO CLARK SHUSTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and leadership of Clark Shuster, President of the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce (LBCCC). The Chamber plays an important role in economic and business development in my District and Mr. Shuster has been leading this important work as president since 1985. Under Mr. Shuster's leadership, the LBCCC has partnered with over 1000 members including small, medium and large business firms in the community.

Mr. Shuster has worked with the community to develop mentorship, communication, and education programs that foster free enterprise and provide businesses with opportunities to succeed.

Clark has also been a part of the Bucks County community for his entire life. He grew up in Bucks County and attended High School at Central Bucks East. Today, Clark lives in Newtown, Pennsylvania with his wife Jane. Not only is he an active leader in the local business community, but he has provided his efforts and leadership to other community organizations such as the Lower Bucks YMCA and the Levittown Fairless Hills Rotary Club.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Clark Shuster's hard work, dedication and devotion to bettering our Bucks County community and for his support of local business and free enterprise within the Eighth District of Pennsylvania and I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of a quick conclusion and passage of a multi-year Federal Aviation Administration Authorization. On Friday afternoon, I was pleased to see that a compromise was reached regarding language on union elections under the National Mediation Board. It was almost a year ago on February 11, 2011 that the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act was introduced. During this time, Congress passed

five extensions contributing to the now 23 short-term extensions that the FAA has operated under for several years.

Twenty-three times the FAA and thousands of employees who rely on the FAA have faced potential shutdowns and uncertainty due to Congressional inaction, with one two-week shutdown resulting in millions of dollars in lost federal revenue. The impact of these extensions is not limited to instability for Americans in the aviation industry and a loss of federal revenue.

The lack of a multi-year authorization has stalled the implementation of the NextGen aviation system. When fully implemented, NextGen will allow for a more dynamic aviation system by allowing for quicker and more fuel efficient routes for aircraft and a more flexible aviation system. Each delay places our domestic aviation industry at risk of falling behind their international competitors. The passage of a multi-year FAA authorization bill ensures that NextGen will move forward and allow the United States to remain ahead of the world in implementing this system.

I am confident that the FAA extension we passed earlier this week is the last extension needed to complete this process. When the remaining issues are resolved, we will be able to provide the aviation industry stability and show to the American people that Congress can work together and accomplish something.

HONORING WWII VETERAN MR. JAMES EDWARD McSHANE CELEBRATING HIS 86TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War II Veteran James Edward McShane, who will celebrate his 86th birthday tomorrow, January 26, 2012. Mr. McShane fought courageously in the South Pacific with the 96th Infantry Division during World War II. With great honor, I pay tribute to him today for his loyalty and sacrifice to his country during wartime.

A Chicagoland native, Mr. McShane was born to Patrick and Catherine McShane on January 26, 1925. He attended De La Salle High School in Chicago where he began playing the trombone. Later in life, his deep-rooted passion and talent for music led him to form the Jimmy McShane Orchestra, which delighted Chicago audiences for many years. Mr. McShane married the love of his life, Joan Frances Connors, on January 28, 1950. He is a devoted father of five children and a grandfather to fourteen.

After returning home from war, he received his bachelor's degree from DePaul University in Chicago. He found a career in the plastics industry forging many lasting friendships and garnering respect among his professional peers. A hardworking and dedicated man, he retired from Tyco Plastics in 2002. During his well-deserved days of retirement, Mr. McShane spends his time gardening, playing bridge, and conversing with friends.

On behalf of the residents of the Third District of Illinois, I extend to Mr. McShane my warmest birthday wishes and sincere gratitude for his service to our country. He is an exemplary American, and I am proud to have him as a constituent.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Since its inception 13 years ago, the program has placed some of Australia's best and brightest university students, who have exhibited a passion for civic engagement and public service, with House and Senate offices for two-month full-time internships annually. These internships have enabled me and my staff, who have participated since the program's inception to share in our common values and ideals, while at the same time learning more about the Commonwealth of Australia.

It is an understatement to say that the United States and Australia are close allies globally, or that we share many political and economic traits. We are in many ways akin to extended family, sharing much tied history and culture. It is in this spirit that the program was launched 13 years ago to further such relations. Since its beginnings, the program has seen more than 130 young Australians walk the halls of Congress, and it is with the utmost pride that I recognize the importance of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program in the United States House of Representatives.

Ms. Jessica Boddington joined my office on January 3, 2011 from the University of Queensland, where she is simultaneously pursuing degrees in International Relations and in Economics. During her time in my office, Jess has proven herself to be a caring, intelligent and dedicated intern, and I am honored to host her. In addition to serving my constituents with professionalism and respect, she has attended hearings and briefings, drafted legislative correspondence and assisted my staffers with a variety of individual projects.

Founded and directed by former House and Senate staffer, Eric Federing, the program fosters cultural and educational exchanges between the United States and Australia. Mr. Federing deserves distinguished praise for his efforts in coordinating this program, as well as for the support he provides to its individual participants. Outside of working in Congressional offices, the interns are given the opportunity to explore our brand of American democracy through panel discussions with political correspondents, representatives from various government offices and professionals at non-government agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express how remarkable the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program is, and I once again extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Federing for managing this program. As United States Members of Congress we have a responsibility to serve our constituents well, but also a unique opportunity to reach out to a myriad of people across the globe. As such, I would encourage all of my colleagues to open their doors to students from overseas, so that we can share our culture and democratic institutions. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program and, again, thank Jess Boddington for her admirable participation and diligent work.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BLACK JANUARY IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the people of Azerbaijan in remembrance of the 22nd anniversary of the tragic events of Black January, when at midnight of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops stormed the capital city of Baku with tanks and armored vehicles to crush the demonstrators. The shooting continued for three days and among the victims were women, children and elderly citizens.

Black January had a profound effect on Azerbaijan. However, it was the opposite of what the Soviets had wanted. For 40 days, the country mourned the victims and as a sign of mass protest stayed away from work. This was a turning point in the history of Azerbaijan. This massacre did not stop the people of Azerbaijan from continuing their struggle for national independence. The Azerbaijani national movement succeeded to stand against Soviet challenge, and Soviet troops eventually had to withdraw from Baku. Subsequently, Azerbaijan declared its independence on October 18, 1991.

Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country and has become an essential partner of the United States in the region, collaborating on strengthening energy security and working together to counter terrorism, drug-trafficking and extremism. I would like to thank the Azerbaijani people for their friendship and share my thoughts and prayers with the families of those who gave their lives fighting for a better Azerbaijan. The United States will continue to work with Azerbaijan and other countries in the region to resolve protracted conflicts, to promote democratic development, to maintain stability, strengthen institutions, and enhance the rule of law.

CONGRATULATING THE CARPINTERIA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce in my Congressional District on its 100th Anniversary. The Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce was chartered in 1912 to serve local businesses by a group of visionary community leaders, many of whose descendants still live and work in Carpinteria.

The original charter states that Carpinteria "had good churches, schools and social condition, plus a population of 500, which was sure to grow with the great inducements of city and

rural life, in addition to the magnificent mountain and ocean scenery,'' qualities that continue to draw people to this treasured community on California's South Coast.

Over the last century, the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce has diligently served the Carpinteria Valley business community through its commitment to developing strong and viable local businesses by providing opportunities for business education and networking, promoting tourism, and advocating on behalf of business interests. They have also worked closely with the City of Carpinteria to create strong business outreach and community support.

This Chamber is a valued organization of businesses united to create a strong local economy and a positive quality of life by representing business to government, promoting the community, providing networking opportunities and supporting a sustainable future for business and economic development.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor to represent this outstanding group of business and community leaders over the years. Again, I congratulate them on a century of achievements and outstanding contributions to our community, enhancing the life of all Carpinterians and helping our local businesses stay strong.

RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of January as National Stalking Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to increasing public understanding of the crime of stalking as well as helping to improve law enforcement's response to stalking in an attempt to hopefully putting an end to this terrifying crime. As a nation, we need to take the necessary action to prevent stalking before it occurs.

Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime, but a series of acts directed at a single person with the intention to cause fear through threats, intimidation and/or nonconsensual or unwanted communication. Victims of stalking face profound consequences, such as high levels of stress, fear and anxiety.

Stalking is a dangerous reality that affects thousands of Americans every year. In the United States, stalking affects 3.4 million people each year. Further, one in six women and one in 19 men in the United States have been victimized by stalking at some point in their lifetime.

January offers time to focus on a crime that is vastly under-reported. Due to threats, intimidation, fear of retribution, or lack of an adequate support system, a large number of victims do not report stalking to law enforcement. Stalking is often a precursor to more serious crimes and it can be dangerous if left unreported. If you or someone you know is the victim of stalking, I urge you to come forward and get the protection you need.

As of September 1993, all 50 states and the District of Columbia had passed some type of anti-stalking legislation and in 1996, Congress passed the federal stalking law. This is great progress. Until the passage of anti-stalking laws, victims had few remedies and limited options.

The Obama administration has taken significant strides to identify and prevent stalking. President Obama was the first President to proclaim January as National Stalking Awareness Month and his administration has gone to great lengths to create a strategy to combat violence against women. In addition, stalking is one of the four crimes addressed in the Violence Against Women Act and the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women is a leader in the fight to reduce stalking. While we are currently taking steps in the right direction, there is room for progress.

I would like to take time to commend Peace over Violence and Safe at Home, for all the work they do to protect victims in my district. Peace over Violence is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing stalking and domestic violence in the Los Angeles area. Peace over Violence offers Emergency, Intervention, Prevention, Education and Advocacy services as well as a 24-hour hotline for victims. Safe at Home, California's address confidentiality program, is administered by the California Secretary of State's office. The program provides a free post office box and mail forwarding services designed to help stalking and other domestic violence victims. Safe at Home offers services that include confidentiality for children, as well as confidential name change, voter registration and the suppression of Department of Motor Vehicle records. Both Peace over Violence and Safe at Home provide victims of stalking with protection, relief and a sense of safety.

Stalking is serious, unpredictable and can often escalate over time. To effectively respond to stalking, we must do more to promote public awareness about stalking and support victims of this crime. Let us work together to advance protection services for stalking victims and expanded educational services. The more people learn to recognize stalking, the warning signs and the dangers, the better chance we have to protect victims and prevent tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to observe National Stalking Awareness Day, I encourage all Americans to come together to prevent stalking before it occurs and I encourage victims to get help by reporting harassment and stalking to the proper authorities.

CONGRATULATING THE KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club on the 75th anniversary of its founding and to recognize its impressive contributions to the preservation and perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture. Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club has a distinguished record of service to the ahupua'a of Kāne'ohe, Heāeia, Kahalu'u, Waihe'e, Ka'alaea, Waihole, Waikane, Hakipu'u, and Kualoa on the windward side of the island of O'ahu. The civic club, along with community and other local partners in Hawaii, has planned a year-long celebration featuring the musical, natural, and cultural heritage of O'ahu's windward coast.

Our civic clubs have played an important role in the history of Hawaii, dating back to the first Hawaiian civic club founded in 1918 by Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanian'ole. He was a stalwart figure in Hawaiian history, a tireless advocate for the Hawaiian people and served in this very chamber as Hawaii's delegate to Congress from 1902 to 1922. Carrying on Prince Kuhio's legacy and strong belief in civic duty and grassroots activism, more than sixty Hawaiian civic clubs have been established in Hawaii and the continental United States. These clubs proudly keep Hawaiian traditions, language, and culture alive and work to improve the conditions of the Native Hawaiian people and our island communities.

Founded by community leaders George Ke'ehukulani Cypher, Johnny Townsend, Isaac Kanakanui, and Solomon Halualani, as well as renowned hula master Kau'i Zuttermeister and Honolulu City Planner George Houghtailing, the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, has taken its core value of mālama—or to take care—to heart. Through its efforts to maintain ancient heiau (sacred Hawaiian religious sites), restore threatened wetlands, provide annual scholarships for Native Hawaiian students, and many other initiatives, the Ko'olaupoko Civic Club continues to support the culture and heritage of Native Hawaiians. It's only fitting that the club was awarded the Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanian'ole Award as the ''most outstanding Hawaiian Civic Club'' at the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs' 2011 Convention.

Congratulations to the members of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club for all their accomplishments, their dedication to the betterment of our community and continuing the civic clubs' heritage of service.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 31

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine holding the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) accountable, focusing on a review of first semi-annual report.
SD–538

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the United States and global energy outlook for 2012.
SD–366

Finance
To hold hearings to examine extenders and tax reform, focusing on long-term solutions.
SD–215

Judiciary
Privacy, Technology and the Law Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the ''Video Privacy Protection Act'', focusing on protecting viewer privacy in the 21st century.
SD–266

FEBRUARY 1

10 a.m.
Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine developing and strengthening high-growth entrepreneurship.
SR–428A

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Federal retirement processing, focusing on ensuring proper and timely payments.
SD–342

FEBRUARY 2

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the final report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future.
SD–366

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1739, to provide for the use and distribution of judgment funds awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by the United States Court of Federal Claims in Docket Numbers 19 and 188, S. 356, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and S. 908, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.
SD–628

FEBRUARY 7

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

FEBRUARY 8

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2012 for Veterans' Programs.
SR–418

FEBRUARY 9

10 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SD–G50

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice's opinion on internet gaming, focusing on what's at stake for tribes.
SD–628

FEBRUARY 14

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SD–G50

FEBRUARY 16

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine energy development in Indian country.
SD–628

FEBRUARY 28

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SD–106

2:30 p.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).
345, Cannon Building

FEBRUARY 29

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine ending homelessness among veterans, focusing on Veterans' Affairs progress on its five year plan.
SR–418

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SH–216

MARCH 7

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).
SD–G50

MARCH 21

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Non Commissioned Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Vietnam Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, and The Retired Enlisted Association.
SD–G50

MARCH 22

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Air Force Sergeants Association, Blinded Veterans Association, American Veterans (AMVETS), Gold Star Wives, Fleet Reserve Association, Military Officers Association of America, and the Jewish War Veterans.
345, Cannon Building

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, January 26, 2012.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight concluded a hearing to examine contract management at Arlington National Cemetery, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Peter M. Vangjel, Inspector General, Department of the Army Inspector General Agency, and Kathryn A. Condon, Executive Director, Army National Cemeteries Program, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Arlington National Cemetery, both of the Department of Defense; and Brian J. Lepore, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, and Belva M. Martin, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, both of the Government Accountability Office.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 9 public bills, H.R. 3824–3832; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 527–529 were introduced. **Pages H181–82**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H182–83**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Chaffetz to act as Speaker pro tempore for today **Page H161**

Suspension: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Ultralight Aircraft Smuggling Prevention Act of 2012: H.R. 3801, to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify the definition of aircraft and the offenses penalized under the aviation smuggling provisions under that Act, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 408 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 11. **Pages H163–66, H169**

Recess: The House recessed at 9:38 a.m. and reconvened at 9:44 a.m. **Page H166**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated yesterday, January 24th:

Buffalo Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act: H.R. 1022, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the National Parks, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 338 yeas to 70 nays, Roll No. 10. **Pages H166–67**

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following member on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2013: Mr. Daniel M. Slane of Ohio. **Page H169**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 27th, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon on Tuesday, January 31st for morning hour debate. **Page H169**

Report Filing: Agreed that the Committee on the Budget have until 3 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2012 to file reports on H.R. 3582, H.R. 3578, and H.R. 3581. **Pages H169–70**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Giffords wherein she notified the House that she had submitted a letter to the Governor of Arizona stating her intention to resign as the representative for the Eighth Congressional District of Arizona, effective at the end of January 25, 2012.

Pages H170–71

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H166–67 and H169. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a markup on the following: H.R. 1840, to improve consideration by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations and orders; H.R. 2682, the "Business Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act of 2011"; H.R. 2779, to exempt inter-affiliate swaps from certain regulatory requirements put in place by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; H.R. 2586, the "Swap Execution Facility (SEF) Clarification Act"; H.R. 3336, the "Small Business Credit Availability Act"; H.R. 3527, the "Protecting Main Street End-Users from Excessive Regulation". H.R. 1840 was ordered reported without amendment. The following were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 2682, H.R. 2779, H.R. 2586, H.R. 3336 and H.R. 3527.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held hearing entitled "American Jobs Now: A Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3548, the "North American Energy Access Act". Testimony was heard from Kerri-Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environment and Scientific Affairs, Department of State; and Jeffrey C. Wright, Director, Office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on the following: H.R. 2467, the "Bridgeport Indian Colony Land Trust, Health, and Economic Development Act of 2011"; and S. 292, the "Salmon Lake Land Selection Resolution Act". Testimony was heard from Representative McKeon; Michael Smith, Deputy Bureau Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs; John Glazer, Bridgeport Indian Colony, California; and public witness.

VOLT VEHICLE FIRE

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending held a hearing entitled "Volt Vehicle Fire: What did NHTSA Know and When Did They Know It?" Testimony was heard from David L. Strickland, Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and public witnesses.

FEDERAL PENSION SYSTEM

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and Labor Policy held a hearing entitled "Retirement Readiness: Strengthening the Federal Pension System." Testimony was heard from Representatives Coble, Coffman, Dold, Griffin, Nugent and Schilling. Testimony was also heard from Charles "Chuck" Grimes, Chief Operating Officer, Office of Personnel Management; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

KAZAKHSTAN

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine Kazakhstan, focusing on the stability of their government, after receiving testimony from William Courtney, former United States Ambassador to Kazakhstan and Georgia, Department of State, Sean Roberts, George Washington University Elliott School for International Affairs, and Susan Corke, Freedom House, all of Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the outlook for the United States and global economy, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine compliance with tax limits on mutual fund commodity speculation, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1925, to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and the nominations of Paul J. Watford, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, and Dennis J. Erby, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Mississippi, Department of

Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226. Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrew David Hurwitz, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Kristine Gerhard Baker, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, John Z. Lee, and John J. Tharp, Jr., both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and George Levi Russell, III, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, 2:15 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will begin consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.J. Res. 98, Debt Ceiling Increase, with a vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution at 12 p.m., and if the motion is successful, Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Friday, January 27

House Chamber

Program for Friday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 11 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bono Mack, Mary, Calif., E74
Capps, Lois, Calif., E78
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E77
Cole, Tom, Okla., E69
Davis, Danny K., Ill., E71, E73, E77
Dingell, John D., Mich., E76
Farr, Sam, Calif., E78
Fitzpatrick, Michael G., Pa., E75, E77
Graves, Sam, Mo., E72, E73, E74, E74, E74, E75, E75
Hirono, Mazie K., Hawaii, E69, E76, E79
Honda, Michael M., Calif., E72
Johnson, Timothy V., Ill., E70, E71, E77
Kaptur, Marcy, Ohio, E71
Lipinski, Daniel, Ill., E78
Miller, George, Calif., E75, E77
Moran, James P., Va., E70
Murphy, Christopher S., Conn., E70
Neal, Richard E., Mass., E77
Palazzo, Steven M., Miss., E75
Pence, Mike, Ind., E71
Richardson, Laura, Calif., E69, E70, E75, E79
Sherman, Brad, Calif., E77
Smith, Adam, Wash., E73
Smith, Christopher H., N.J., E72
Tipton, Scott R., Colo., E69
Towns, Edolphus, N.Y., E78
Turner, Michael R., Ohio, E73
Walden, Greg, Ore., E72
Wasserman Schultz, Debbie, Fla., E74

Congressional Record

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087–390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Printing Office at *www.fdsys.gov*, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Printing Office. Phone 202–512–1800, or 866–512–1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, *contactcenter@gpo.gov*. ¶The *Congressional Record* paper and 24x microfiche edition will be furnished by mail to subscribers, free of postage, at the following prices: paper edition, $252.00 for six months, $503.00 per year, or purchased as follows: less than 200 pages, $10.50; between 200 and 400 pages, $21.00; greater than 400 pages, $31.50, payable in advance; microfiche edition, $146.00 per year, or purchased for $3.00 per issue payable in advance. The semimonthly *Congressional Record Index* may be purchased for the same per issue prices. To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197–9000, or phone orders to 866–512–1800 (toll-free), 202–512–1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202–512–2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record,* U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.