EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH MAY 1, 2012

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Asthma Awareness Month. Nearly 26 million Americans, including more than 7 million children are affected by asthma. I am encouraging Americans to fight against asthma by learning more about the disease and how it affects families and their communities.

As part of Asthma Awareness Month, there are many public and private organizations working hand and hand to honor those who are taking on the challenge of fighting this chronic respiratory disease. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, is honoring exceptional health plans, health care providers and communities in action for their efforts to improve the lives of people with asthma in underserved communities across the country.

There are many triggers during the spring season making it particularly difficult for asthma patients. The annual economic cost of asthma, including direct medical costs from hospital stays and indirect costs such as lost school and work days, amount to approximately $56 billion. The EPA is working hard to clean the air we breathe and reduce the environmental causes of asthma and other respiratory illnesses. We can ease this financial burden on Americans by supporting the EPA and legislation such as the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, DERA.

Maintaining an active lifestyle is important in staying healthy and if symptoms are properly managed Americans who suffer from asthma can stay active. Here are some simple steps: learn your triggers and avoid them in your home and neighborhood. With a doctor's help, you can create an asthma action plan to help you effectively manage your asthma and reduce exposure to triggers. Taking the appropriate medications and avoiding your triggers. Check local air quality conditions at airnow.gov and make informed decisions about participating in outdoor activities. In addition a downloadable Air Quality Index mobile app is available for smart phones.

Mr. Speaker, this month, it is important to support the nearly 26 million Americans who suffer from asthma. I am encouraging Americans to educate themselves on the chronic respiratory disease, asthma.

SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and commend the efforts of the Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign; a grassroots organization founded by college and high school students toward promoting greater awareness and respect for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Created by young people with disabilities and their typical peers, Spread the Word to End the Word promotes the undeniable truth that everyone matters, everyone is accepted and, most importantly, everyone is valued. Today, young activists across the country are leading local efforts to raise awareness and collect pledges from peers and the community to vow not to use the word ''retarded'' and recognize the first Wednesday of every March as a national awareness day for The Spread the Word to End the Word campaign.

Best Buddies and Special Olympics participants across the nation have enthusiastically taken the pledge to stop the derogatory use of the word ''retarded,'' and have collectively encouraged hundreds of thousands of others to do the same. I am proud to speak about this amazing group of young activists who are spreading hope each and every day; not just in their own communities but across the country and the world by making communities inclusive of people of all ability levels.

I am proud to have taken the pledge, and I thank all who also pledge to think of others before they speak and, in so doing, promote universal human dignity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RIVERBANK LIONS CLUB

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize the chartering of the Riverbank Lions Club and its chartering members for their commitment to community and humanitarian service.

Lions Club International was founded in 1917 by a group of business leaders who desired working towards the betterment of their community and the world. Boasting over 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members, it is now the world's largest service organization. Together, they strive to promote the organization's mission to ''empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding.'' Through community volunteer work, implementing programs to encourage good health and youth empowerment, as well as community and environmental awareness programs, they are truly working to make the world a better place to live.

On May 5, 2012, the Riverbank Lions Club joined this prestigious organization with the chartering of its chapter in Riverbank, California. This group will undoubtedly uphold the Lions' vision and help those in need through community service and fundraising projects.

Members of the chartering club are: Linda Abid-Cummings, Annabelle Aguilar, Tom Aja, Mia Alcala-Van Houten, Cynthia Avila, Lynette Bradley, James ''Doc'' Dachenhaus, Charlie Grom, Carrie Higby, Patty Hughes, Chip Langman, Sharon Langman, Don Langman, Laura Wilson, Leta Larkin, Sandy Lucas, Dotty Nygard, Billy Powell, Bill Redford, Jennifer Redford, Dawn Rios, Angie Timpone, and Joe Timpone.

Mr. Speaker, we thank you for the opportunity to honor the Riverbank Lions Club here today. Further, we appreciate you joining us in congratulating its members on the chartering of their new chapter and to recognize their commitment to service.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ED HUNT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Edward Woodrow Hunt, who passed away on April 21, 2012 at the age of 69. Mr. Hunt served as Fresno County's District Attorney for two decades, from 1982 to 2002. He was a passionate prosecutor, who sought justice for victims and was instrumental in the passage of California's ''Three Strikes'' law.

Mr. Hunt was born on July 27, 1942 in Huntsville, Alabama to Ed and Ethel Hunt. He demonstrated his dedication to public service early in his life, when he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1961. He served proudly until 1964. His military work brought him to California's San Joaquin Valley, where he worked as an aircraft mechanic at the Castle Air Force Base in Atwater, California.

A proud product of Valley schools, Mr. Hunt graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and earned his law degree from the San Joaquin College of Law.

Early in his career, Mr. Hunt worked as a Deputy District Attorney, where his love of public service grew. His zest for the law and service led him to seek election to become Fresno County's District Attorney.

After a demanding 1982 election cycle, the voters selected Mr. Hunt as their District Attorney. As Fresno's Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Mr. Hunt hit the ground running, and worked diligently to take action against those who had violated the law. Not only was he an impeccable District Attorney, he was also an important partner in ensuring the well-being and safety of our Valley, and eventually the entire State.

When two former California Assembly Members, myself and Mr. Bill Jones, co-authored legislation for our State's ''Three Strikes and You're Out,'' which eventually was placed on the ballot as an initiative by the people of California, Mr. Hunt was one of its staunchest

supporters. California's "Three Strikes" law sought to increase sentences for repeat offenders in order to significantly decrease crime. Mr. Hunt recognized the value of the proposition and worked hard to earn the support of the California District Attorneys Association.

An exceptional and savvy prosecutor, Mr. Hunt was truly a valuable asset for the people of Central California. During his tenure, he helped reduce crime rates, and established specialty prosecution teams, including the Multi Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium (MAGEC), a nationally recognized gang unit.

He will be sorely missed by friends and family. He is survived by his wife, Linda; his daughter Tami; and stepson Steve Sirman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Mr. Edward Woodrow Hunt. His service to our Valley will ensure that his legacy lives on for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK MOTTA, A DEDICATED SAMARITAN AND PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to honor the life Frank Motta, a Good Samaritan who paid the ultimate price for helping his community. Frank—known in Eastern Washington as a man who would stand up for what was right no matter the cost—passed away in March after being assaulted while trying to break up an underage drinking party. His legacy of utmost care and concern for others will be remembered and sorely missed by the community.

Frank, a Vietnam veteran, served in the United States Air Force from 1964–1968, receiving an Honorable Discharge as well as 2 Presidential Unit Citations, 2 Outstanding Unit Awards, and 2 Vietnamese Crosses for Gallantry. He continued his service to the country by taking a prominent role in Central Washington youth education, working for over 30 years as an English teacher, football coach, principal, and assistant superintendant. He received degrees and certifications in education from California State University at Fullerton, Azusa Pacific University, Washington State University, and Central Washington University. One of his greatest honors was receiving the Young Educator of the Year Award from the Othello High School in 1979, which recognized his tremendous service to the youth of Central Washington.

After retiring from his education career, Frank continued his service as a volunteer in the Spokane VA. His compassion and concern ultimately earned him a full-time position. His coworkers remember him as a man with an unwavering commitment to serve those who served us, saying he's had a true impact on every employee in the hospital.

While we mourn the loss of this dedicated servant and everyday hero, it is with great joy that we remember his life of commitment to others. We are honored to have had such a tremendous man as a part of our community, and ask that his passing serve as a reminder to us all that we are meant to live for one another, and a life built around dedication to others is a life truly lived. May he live on in the heart of service everywhere.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LLOYD RODUNER

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, together with Congressman JIM COSTA, I rise today to recognize Mr. Lloyd Roduner on the event of his retirement as Chairman and Division Five Director for the Lower San Joaquin Levee District.

Lloyd was born in Merced in 1932 and grew up on his family's farm. He graduated from Merced High School where he served as the student body president. Lloyd then went on to attend Cal Poly on a scholastic scholarship. After college, Lloyd served in the Army from 1952–1954. He was stationed in San Diego and served as a food inspector. When he left the Army, he went back to work at his family's ranch.

Lloyd, along with his brother Richard, runs the family business, W.P. Roduner Cattle & Farming Company. He was also a member of the California Beef Council and the California Cattlemen's Association. In addition, he was the charter president of the El Nido Lion's Club in 1964.

Lloyd faithfully served the Lower San Joaquin Levee District since October 1985. Through his wisdom, vision and leadership he earned the respect of local, State and Federal officials and entities in support of the District. In doing this he was able to lead and guide other directors, staff and personnel in operating and maintaining the District in the most efficient and economical way possible. He always kept in mind the benefits of the District for its landowners.

Lloyd has a passion for horses and roping which he learned from his father. He was an accomplished showman of horses since he was fifteen and just retired from this five years ago. Many generations of his family are ropers and as soon as his grandchildren were old enough, he taught them. Lloyd has been married to his wife, Patricia, since 1955. They have two children, Michael and Lloydeen, and eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, along with Congressman JIM COSTA, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Lloyd Roduner for his years of dedication and service to the Lower San Joaquin Levee District.

HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the most diverse Congressional District in Washington State—more than 100,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders live in the 7th Congressional District. Fourteen percent of my constituents are of Asian American and Pacific Islander descent. Their contributions throughout Washington State and across our country have been integral to our Nation's success.

During this commemorative month, we also should remind ourselves of past treatment of these groups, which has been marred by discrimination and bigotry. This year marks the 70th year since the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the Japanese American internment during World War II, and the 130th year since the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Only by learning and remembering our history can we hope to avoid repeating its difficult lessons. I applaud the efforts of organizations dedicated to telling the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Seattle's Wing Luke Asian Museum, the Seattle Asian Art Museum, the Filipino American National Historical Society, and the Japanese American Legacy Project are among those committed to preserving and narrating the stories of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who helped to shape our common history.

I have been privileged to introduce numerous measures to honor the legacies of Asian Americans in my district including legislation to designate a federal courthouse in Seattle, the William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse. Mr. Nakamura, a member of the storied 442nd Regimental Combat Team, posthumously received the Medal of Honor in recognition of his extraordinary bravery during World War II.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders long have made and continue to make very meaningful contributions to our country and to our society. This month, we honor them.

MEGA PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER (PBM)—MERGER OF EXPRESS SCRIPTS AND MEDCO

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to make a statement because I'm concerned with the newly created mega pharmacy benefit manager (PBM). The Federal Trade Commission recently concluded its investigation into the merger of Express Scripts and Medco, two of the three largest PBMs. PBMs are primarily responsible for implementing and administering benefit plans that are care-effective and lower prescription drug spending. Now, approximately 135 million Americans will be forced to rely on this new mega PBM to manage their prescription drug benefits. This merger also creates the nation's largest mail-order pharmacy, accounting for close to 60 percent of all mail-order prescriptions processed in the U.S.

PBMs claim to reduce prescription drug costs; in fact, they are contributing to the increase in healthcare spending. They create artificial barriers that limit patient choice and competition through referring patients to their own mail-order operations. PBMs also switch patients to more expensive medications allowing these companies to collect rebates from drug makers. Employers and health plans end up paying more for these expensive drugs.

Since 2000, the number of large PBMs has declined and the concentration among the ''Big Three'' PBMs has increased. The merger of Express Scripts and Medco reduces the options for large plans from three to two. This new mega PBM will control over 40 percent of the national prescription drug volume.

Mr. Speaker, given the possible concentration of market share by the mega PBM, I urge my fellow colleagues to demand transparency and accountability in this industry.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD TYLER-TIGERMAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Richard Tyler-Tigerman, who recently passed away at the age of 89. Richard was a remarkable man, beloved by all who had the great fortune to know him. Our nation is a more cultured place for his lifetime of efforts.

Richard became best known in my hometown of Carmel, California, as the Director of the Sunset Cultural Center. In that role he helped develop the Sunset Center—at one time the elementary school that I attended as a boy—into a world renowned performing arts center. And while he was expanding the national and international cultural impact of the Sunset Center, he never lost sight of his neighbors and made sure that he and the Sunset Center were still a local community resource. Richard was a true cultural icon in Carmel, always welcoming, convivial, and engaging.

Richard Tyler-Tigerman was born September 28, 1922, in Chicago, the ninth son of Hungarian immigrants. Apart from a two year stay in New York, where Richard participated in a WPA-sponsored children's theatre project, Richard grew up in Chicago. His mother Minna, a classically trained singer herself, encouraged him and he got his break on stage playing Robin Hood in a high school production. He later studied theater at the University of Chicago until World War II started. He enlisted in the United States Army which eventually took him to the Philippines where he worked with different entertainment groups that came to lift troop morale. After the war, Richard studied theatre in Florida and Chicago on the G.I. Bill. Then, at Northwestern University, he taught and turned professional. For the rest of his life he remained a professional performance man: music, theater, recitals, opera, musical comedy, and eventually directing and producing. He directed the Chicago premiere of Leonard Bernstein's opera ''Trouble in Tahiti'' to wonderful reviews.

He came to Carmel in 1975 to take on the directorship of the Sunset Center, a post he held until his retirement in 1990. He helped revive the Center, which had been struggling ever since the city of Carmel had converted the old school into a performing arts and cultural center. Richard saw his signal accomplishments there as presenting a performance pattern of dance companies, stimulating and interesting professional theater, opera, and people of note, a film series chosen by the audience, and a series of varied and interesting entertainers. He continued beyond retirement to advise local officials who sought his insights about the unique artistic heritage of that city. He served on numerous civic boards and committees, including the Monterey Film Commission, Arts Habitat, and the State Theatre Preservation Group.

His partner of thirty-eight years is Constantine ''Dino'' Cocalis, with whom he shared a home and traveled extensively, particularly to the Greek isles. Richard had one son, Craig Ellis Tigerman, of Rock Island, IL. Grandchildren include Christopher Lee Gibrich of Grand Prairie, TX, Bethany Judith Kump of Rock Island, Chelli Marie Esser of Apple Valley, MN, Justin Thomas Wilson Tigerman of Chicago and Rock Island, and a step-grandchild, Richard Michael Albertson of Carbondale and Moline, IL. Great-grandchildren include Andrew James Doyle and Owen Benjamin Kump of Rock Island, and Sophia Marylyn Esser of Apple Valley. Two more great-grandchildren are on the way later this year.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in extending our condolences to his loved ones and friends for their loss, and in honoring Richard's contribution to our lives. The world is a better place because of Richard Tyler-Tigerman's presence.

INTEREST RATE REDUCTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4628: the Interest Rate Reduction Act.

Congress has a unique opportunity to prevent the scheduled doubling of student loan interest rates before July. Our failure to act will have debilitating effects on millions of Americans. Rather than serve as an obstacle to students wishing to further their education, Congress should work to make college accessible to all. Yet Congress is standing in the way by considering legislation that would pay for the extension of the interest rate reduction by repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which funds essential health services for millions of Americans, including women and children. There is another sensible and responsible way to pay for keeping student loan rates low: end tax subsidies for big oil companies.

Young, educated Americans begin their adult lives financially strapped. Not only do these recent graduates have debt, they also have some of the greatest difficulty finding gainful employment. Recent college graduates have a higher unemployment rate than any other demographic group in the country. Sixty-six percent of students graduating from college today are leaving with student loan debt. On average, those students graduate with $25,000 in debt. The total amount of student loan debt in this country is more than $1 trillion dollars.

If we do not pass a measure that extends the reduced interest rate on student loans, more than 7 million students' rates will double to 6.8 percent. Students who borrow the maximum in subsidized student loans will pay up to an additional $1,000 in interest costs. It is our responsibility to give these students a chance to earn a quality education without the strings of unmanageable debt.

There is little profit to be had from trying to prevent diseases from occurring in the first place, which means pharmaceutical companies and others who profit from efforts to treat and cure diseases will not pay for such efforts. If we want to prevent cancer, the spread of HIV, outbreaks of West Nile Virus, and protect mothers and babies from tobacco; if we want to promote better nutrition, birth defect reduction, preparedness for bioterrorism, and breast and cervical cancer screenings; if we want to protect our children from lead in our homes and yards, the childhood obesity epidemic, and otherwise invisible clusters of chronic diseases like Multiple Sclerosis, we have to fund these programs ourselves. The Prevention and Public Health Fund must be protected as a measure of self-protection.

This bill repeals the Prevention and Public Health Fund. I cannot support this bill.

DR. JAMES L. DOTI

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and contributions of a visionary in higher education, Dr. James L. Doti, on the start of his third decade as President of Chapman University.

Dr. Doti has devoted his academic career to Chapman University and has transformed it from a small local college to a prominent nationally ranked university.

Under his leadership, Chapman University has attracted exceptional faculty and students, including international and national award winners, noted scholars, best-selling authors, highly respected researchers and world-renowned performers.

Dr. Doti is an accomplished and active scholar, having published numerous articles, co-authoring two textbooks and serving as co-editor of a collection of readings in private enterprise.

Among his many accolades, Dr. Doti has received the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and has been inducted into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans.

In addition, Dr. Doti has played a critical role in establishing the School of Law and the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman, both of which have achieved national distinction in their fields.

I congratulate President Doti on his exemplary service to higher education and wish him continued success.

HONORING GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVISTS DURING THE ''LAST COLONY MARCH AND RALLY FOR D.C. DEMOCRACY''

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in a week spent commemorating the 150th anniversary of the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act, which was signed into law on April 16, 1862, freeing the first slaves in the United States. District residents were again reminded of the denial of freedom and democracy that exist at home. On Thursday, April 19, 2012, leaders of the D.C. Statehood Student Association and George Washington University students marched from The George Washington University campus to the Capitol as part of the ''Last Colony March and Rally for D.C. Democracy.'' Six of them engaged in acts of civil disobedience and were arrested.

Along the three-mile route from Kogan Plaza to Upper Senate Park, others joined the young activists, calling for action on important matters of D.C. democracy, ranging from budget autonomy to full congressional representation. The six activists, Brian Crawford, Corante Henderson, Moo Ho Bae II, Markus Batchelor, Matt Laurinavicus, and Patrick Kennedy, went into the street at Constitution Avenue and First Street, where they sat down and blocked traffic, and were arrested for their act of civil disobedience.

Their courage shows that the civil disobedience that began here one year ago will continue until Congress grants D.C. full democracy. On April 11, 2011, the D.C. Mayor and six members of the D.C. Council were among 41 people who were arrested on Capitol Hill in a large display of civil disobedience. They protested the action of Congress and the administration in trading away the District's right to spend its local funds on abortion services for low-income women.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the courageous acts of Brian Crawford, Corante Henderson, Moo Ho Bae II, Markus Batchelor, Matt Laurinavicus, and Patrick Kennedy, students at The George Washington University and leaders in the D.C. Statehood Student Association. They exemplify the time-honored tradition of using civil disobedience to combat injustice, and remind us that the District's great struggle for democracy is expanding and will continue until freedom and equality come to the District of Columbia.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe National Teacher Appreciation Week and to thank teachers across the nation for their dedication. Teachers touch the lives of so many children throughout their careers and have a unique role in bringing together families and communities to develop our Nation's most valuable resource, our children.

Our former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt first introduced the idea of a National Teachers' Day in 1953. Mrs. Roosevelt said, ''I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity.'' Thankfully, our children do have such figures in their lives: the teachers who instill curiosity and a love of learning. I think we can all point to a teacher in our past who inspired imagination and a sense of discovery.

As a former preschool teacher, I understand the difficulties teachers face today. With growing class sizes, shrinking budgets, and harsh scrutiny of standardized testing, this important profession has become more challenging than ever, and we must do more to reaffirm our commitment to educators.

Education is the key to our economic success. The quality of our education system affects us as a country and as individuals who provide for ourselves and our families. We cannot remain competitive without an educated and passionate workforce, and supporting our teachers is the wisest investment we can make in our country's future.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a heartfelt thanks to the hardworking teachers of the 37th Congressional District and across the Nation. I encourage students, parents and school officials to participate in the events of National Teacher Appreciation Week.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE AND THE 1%

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, an op-ed in the April 19, 2012 Wall Street Journal by Mark Spitznagel explains how the Federal Reserve's monetary easing program, in place since the financial crisis of 2008, has continued the massive transfer of wealth from the Middle Class directly to the richest.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Apr. 19, 2012]

HOW THE FED FAVORS THE 1%

(By Mark Spitznagel)

A major issue in this year's presidential campaign is the growing disparity between rich and poor, the 1% versus the 99%. While the president's solutions differ from those of his likely Republican opponent, they both ignore a principal source of this growing disparity.

The source is not runaway entrepreneurial capitalism, which rewards those who best serve the consumer in product and price. (Would we really want it any other way?) There is another force that has turned a natural divide into a chasm: the Federal Reserve. The relentless expansion of credit by the Fed creates artificial disparities based on political privilege and economic power.

David Hume, the 18th-century Scottish philosopher, pointed out that when money is inserted into the economy (from a government printing press or, as in Hume's time, the importation of gold and silver), it is not distributed evenly but ''confined to the coffers of a few persons, who immediately seek to employ it to advantage.''

In the 20th century, the economists of the Austrian school built upon this fact as their central monetary tenet. Ludwig von Mises and his students demonstrated how an increase in money supply is beneficial to those who get it first and is detrimental to those who get it last. Monetary inflation is a process, not a static effect. To think of it only in terms of aggregate price levels (which is all Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke seems capable of) is to ignore this pernicious process and the imbalance and economic dislocation that it creates.

As Mises protégé Murray Rothbard explained, monetary inflation is akin to counterfeiting, which necessitates that some benefit and others don't. After all, if everyone counterfeited in proportion to their wealth, there would be no real economic benefit to anyone. Similarly, the expansion of credit is uneven in the economy, which results in wealth redistribution. To borrow a visual from another Mises student, Friedrich von Hayek, the Fed's money creation does not flow evenly like water into a tank, but rather oozes like honey into a saucer, dolloping one area first and only then very slowly dribbling to the rest. The Fed doesn't expand the money supply by uniformly dropping cash from helicopters over the hapless masses. Rather, it directs capital transfers to the largest banks (whether by overpaying them for their financial assets or by lending to them on the cheap), minimizes their borrowing costs, and lowers their reserve requirements. All of these actions result in immediate handouts to the financial elite first, with the hope that they will subsequently unleash this fresh capital onto the unsuspecting markets, raising demand and prices wherever they do.

The Fed, having gone on an unprecedented credit expansion spree, has benefited the recipients who were first in line at the trough: banks (imagine borrowing for free and then buying up assets that you know the Fed is aggressively buying with you) and those favored entities and individuals deemed most creditworthy. Flush with capital, these recipients have proceeded to bid up the prices of assets and resources, while everyone else has watched their purchasing power decline.

At some point, of course, the honey flow stops—but not before much malinvestment. Such malinvestment is precisely what we saw in the historic 1990s equity and subsequent real-estate bubbles (and what we're likely seeing again today in overheated credit and equity markets), culminating in painful liquidation. The Fed is transferring immense wealth from the middle class to the most affluent, from the least privileged to the most privileged. This coercive redistribution has been a far more egregious source of disparity than the president's presumption of tax unfairness (if there is anything unfair about approximately half of a population paying zero income taxes) or deregulation.

Pitting economic classes against each other is a divisive tactic that benefits no one. Yet if there is any upside, it is perhaps a closer examination of the true causes of the problem. Before we start down the path of arguing about the merits of redistributing wealth to benefit the many, why not first stop redistributing it to the most privileged?

HONORING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the thirteen Medal of Honor

recipients who trained in Mineral Wells, Texas, at Camp Wolters during World War II and at Fort Wolters during the Vietnam War. On March 23, 2012, the Fort Wolters Gate Committee joined with the citizens of Mineral Wells to honor these brave men with two ceremonies on Medal of Honor Day.

These thirteen outstanding individuals are First Lieutenant Eli L. Whiteley, First Lieutenant James M. Sprayberry, First Lieutenant Charles L. Thomas, First Lieutenant Vernon Baker, First Lieutenant Jack L. Knight, Second Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy, Staff Sergeant Edward A. Carter, Jr., Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel, Chief Warrant Officer Frederick Edgar Ferguson, Captain Ed Freeman, Captain Jon E. Swanson, Major Patrick H. Brady, and Major William E. Adams.

The Medal of Honor is our nation's highest military honor that can be bestowed upon an individual service member by the United States government. It is given to men and women of the Armed Forces who set themselves apart through their uncommon courage, selflessness, and valor which goes above and beyond the call of duty. The recipients of this prestigious award are not only leaders among those with whom they serve, they are also the role models to whom future generations of Americans will always look. I am honored to be able to join in recognizing these heroes before Congress today.

HONORING THE LEGENDARY CAROLE KING

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about my friend Carole King.

Carole King is a music legend, with hundreds of pop hits, including the recognizable "I Feel the Earth Move." She has won four Grammys, and is a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Many of her songs have been featured in commercials, TV shows, and movies, and she has worked with many music icons such as Eric Clapton and Celine Dion.

In addition to her fame as a musician, King is also a strong activist for environmental issues. She is often here in our offices on Capitol Hill fighting for the protection of our wildlife and ecosystems, both in her native Idaho and worldwide.

While Carole and I do not always agree on the issues, I have always been impressed by her tenacity. She is truly dedicated to this cause, and her perseverance is something to be admired. Many of us do not have the opportunity to meet someone like Carole. She has a great heart and is a great asset to America.

I want to congratulate Carole King on all of her accomplishments. It has been a pleasure to work with her over the years.

MALAWI PRESIDENT JOYCE BANDA SWEARING-IN ADDRESS ON APRIL 7, 2012

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the April 7, 2012 swearing-in address by Malawi President Joyce Banda.

This is a unique occasion.

May his soul rest in peace.

I am not here to give a long speech considering the circumstances we are in. Let us focus on mourning our father, former President Mutharika.

I also would like to report to all you people that this afternoon I had a cabinet meeting. We felt the holy spirit in that room. It was a good meeting, as a nation we should realize that, because it was significant and marks a starting point for healing the wounds of this nation . . .

I thank you all for showing me great humility and honor as I accept the huge responsibility. I also thank you all for the peaceful transition and I appeal to the nation to mourn the former president with dignity and thank all of you who have come to witness this occasion from all walks of life, irrespective of political, spiritual, regional backgrounds . . .

I want to ask all of us to move into the future with hope and the spirit of oneness and unity. I sincerely hope there is no room for revenge, that we shall stand united . . .

As a God fearing nation we shall allow God to come before us because if we do not do that, we have failed.

IN HONOR OF ANDREW F. SIMMONS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Andrew F. Simmons, a native of Yonkers, has spent a good deal of his adult life in improving housing in his hometown. He began a partnership with Yonkers 15 years ago in assisting with the development of affordable homes in the distressed southwest area.

Since 1999 he had managed numerous development projects, including the Gazette Building Waterfront Development. He was contractor for the Hamilton Heights renovation project, the Metro North Train Station demonstration projects in Yonkers and Croton-Harmon.

He has helped to lead the completion of the pre-development of three two-family homes and worked as general contractor and developer of an additional three two-family homes. Further, he is developing an affordable twelve-unit condo on the Hudson River.

Andrew Simmons developed Think Services, a consulting firm which works with Community Development Corporations with design phase, budget and community inclusion in project development.

I am proud to join with the Women's Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring Andrew Simmons for his outstanding work in developing and building homes for those who need it most.

IN HONOR OF GEORGIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB HANNER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Southwest Georgia's most respected public officials, Georgia State Representative Bob Hanner. Representative Hanner, first elected as a member of the Georgia General Assembly in 1975, recently announced that he will not run for re-election after serving 37 years in Georgia's House of Representatives.

His longevity of dedicated public service and steadfast representation of his constituents in Chattahoochee, Lee, Quitman, Stewart, Terrell and Webster counties, are just a few of the many reasons as to why Representative Hanner has been an invaluable member of the Georgia General Assembly.

Representative Hanner hails from Parrott, Georgia and is a graduate of both Gordon Military and Southwestern Colleges. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard in Vietnam from 1967–1968.

Following his collegiate career and military service, he worked in the private sector as a farmer and an estate planner. Prior to being elected to the Georgia General Assembly, he also served as a member of the Terrell County Hospital Authority.

Representative Hanner's first election to the Georgia General Assembly was in a September 1975 runoff in what was then the 130th House District. He successfully claimed 2,811 votes of the 5,442 votes cast in the special election runoff.

Over the course of his distinguished legislative career, he has served as a member of the House Appropriations and Rules Committees and as Secretary of the House Committees on Natural Resources & Environment, and Public Safety and Homeland Security. For the last 15 years, Representative Hanner has served as the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and he co-chaired a state-wide water management study committee.

In conjunction with his legislative responsibilities and other important duties associated with his public service, Representative Hanner has played an active role in several civic and community service organizations in Southwest Georgia. He is a member of the P.T. Schley Masonic Lodge #229 in Dawson, Georgia; the Terrell County Chamber of Commerce; and has served as a past director of the United States Jaycees.

It cannot be disputed that Representative Hanner has achieved numerous successes throughout his life. However, none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and the support of his loving wife, Linda. Mr. and Mrs. Hanner are the proud parents of three magnificent children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting an outstanding legislator and one of Georgia's most respected public figures, Representative Bob Hanner, on the occasion of his well-deserved retirement.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, no one in this body was untouched by the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, which will stand in our history as one of the most infamous crimes ever perpetrated against the people of the United States. It not only cast a shadow of despair over America, but also thrust us into a different kind of global conflict, fighting an unconventional, adaptive enemy that has adopted the mass murder of innocent civilians as a weapon of war.

More than four years ago, we apprehended the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 plot, Khalid Sheikh Mohammad. He and four others are awaiting trial in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility on charges that include 2,973 individual acts of murder. That trial will take place before a reformed military commission.

I believe that such commissions are the appropriate venue for this proceeding. They are modeled on the federal civilian criminal justice system. They protect the rights of the accused. They respect the rule of law. They reflect our core values as Americans. They are transparent. In short, they provide an instrument that is fair, principled, accountable, and effective, one that satisfies the imperative of justice rather than the thirst for revenge.

This confidence is underscored by the fact that Brig. Gen. Mark Martins is the chief prosecutor of the military commissions at Guantanamo Bay. Gen. Martins is a lawyer of tremendous skill, and a man of great integrity, character, and judgment. Reflecting his commitment to this case, he recently declined promotion in order to see these matters through to their conclusion. As the war against terrorism moves to the legal arena, we are indeed fortunate that Gen. Martins is leading the effort to ensure that justice is fairly dispensed to those charged with the horrific acts of 9/11.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, Gen. Martins and the reformed military commission were the subjects of a news report from National Public Radio. With your permission, I would like to include the text of that report in my remarks and urge that my colleagues take a moment to read this article and learn more about the man that Gen. David Petraeus described as "one of those rare individuals who always seems to end up in the toughest assignments and always performs exceedingly well in them."

A PROSECUTOR MAKES THE CASE FOR MILITARY TRIALS

(By Dina Temple-Raston)

The chief prosecutor for the military commissions at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is arguing a difficult case: that the commissions are not only fair, but can take pride of place alongside the civilian criminal justice system.

Brig. Gen. Mark Martins is the chief prosecutor for the commissions, the courts at the naval base that try high-profile terrorism suspects.

He has been called Guantanamo's detox man largely because he has made it his mission to show that the military commissions system at Guantanamo is no longer a toxic version of victor's justice.

When the Bush administration resurrected the commissions system in the days after the 9–11 attacks, it was seen as a convenient way to process the hundreds of detainees at Guantanamo.

The fullness of time, Martins argues, has turned the commissions into something more: something that actually resembles an adversarial judicial process.

"Law is being applied, judges are interpreting laws, counsel are arguing for different pieces of a particular motion," Martins told NPR in an interview. "Justice is being done, we're just absolutely committed to that. We've worked hard on reforms. Congress has been involved twice. The Supreme Court has ruled upon this."

"The current system is fair, but I understand that people will have to see that for themselves," said Martins, who graduated first in his class at West Point, studied as a Rhodes scholar and then went to Harvard Law School.

CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV FEEDS OF TRIALS

Actually watching the proceedings used to be one of the system's basic shortcomings.

Proceedings were all secret. To see what was going on in the courtroom required traveling to Guantanamo and getting a bevy of clearances. Not anymore. The curious can now watch the trials on closed-circuit television feeds at selected army bases. To get in, citizens just need to show a picture ID, officials say.

Court transcripts are available online. So are motions. Martins says this new transparency is part of a broader effort to convince naysayers that the military commissions aren't so different from civilian courts.

To underscore the point, eight Justice Department attorneys are part of the prosecution teams working on two of the marquee trials the military commissions are hearing: the trial of Abd alRahim al-Nashiri, the man who allegedly planned the attack against the USS *Cole* in Yemen in 2000, and the trial of the alleged Sept. 11 mastermind, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and his alleged co-conspirators.

Those Justice Department lawyers work for Martins. He assigns them to cases, and they answer to him as well as the Justice Department.

BLENDING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SYSTEMS

Martins himself is no stranger to the Department of Justice.

For seven months in 2009, between deployments, Martins worked at Justice on President Obama's Detention Policy Task Force.

Then, three years ago, he became the first soldier to have his promotion ceremony held in the Justice Department's Great Hall. The country's top civilian lawyer, Attorney General Eric Holder, spoke at the ceremony as did Gen. David Petraeus who, at the time, was the head of the United States Central Command. Petraeus and Martins have worked together for more than two decades.

At the ceremony, Petraeus praised Martins: "Above all he is one of those rare individuals who always seems to end up in the toughest assignments and always performs exceedingly well in them."

Petraeus was Martins' first boss when Martins was a junior JAG officer with the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Ky. Years later, Martins helped Petraeus during the surge of U.S. troops in Iraq. Then Martins served in Afghanistan. He was in charge of a field team that was supposed to transform lawless areas in Afghanistan into law abiding ones. Now he's being asked to transform the military commissions at Guantanamo.

SUPPORT FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Martins has some unexpected allies on this mission, including key people at the Justice Department. Just last month, Holder, the attorney general, called the military commissions "essential to the effective administration of justice."

And he isn't alone. Lisa Monaco, the assistant attorney general for National Security at Justice, said the reformed military commissions have the "same fundamental guarantees of fairness that are the hallmark of criminal trials."

This is a far cry from the grumbling that could be heard coming out of the Justice Department when Congress passed a law that essentially required that detainees at Guantanamo be tried on base.

Still, critics have reservations.

"One of the biggest problems is that today's military commissions carry with them the baggage of the military commissions from the Bush era and there is no way to get around that," says Karen Greenberg, director of the Center on National Security at Fordham Law School.

That's why Greenberg says Martins has a Sisyphean task of correcting the commissions' difficult history. For example, the Bush era military commissions allowed hearsay evidence and coerced statements—statements that might have come from torture and while the reformed commissions, as Martins calls them, no longer permit that, the old system still manages to cast a pall over the new.

"There are other problems," says Greenberg. "Basic things like attorney-client privilege. Defense attorneys and their clients at Guantanamo have their mail read. This might be okay under some sort of military commission, but it carries with it the legacy that was part of the Bush administration's policy. The Bush administration treated defense attorneys as if they were collaborating with the enemy and that sense hasn't really gone away."

Martins acknowledges the difficulty: he says the Bush-era commissions system in 2001 was flawed. But the case he is making is that today's system is something else altogether.

Now commissions give those on trial a meaningful opportunity to mount a defense. "I believe that as people watch this system and see it is sharply adversarial, it has all the protections that are demanded by our values . . . that they will see that this is a system they can have confidence in," says Martins.

PLANS TO RETIRE FROM THE MILITARY

Martins would like to remain in the post for two more years, but has asked the military to allow him to retire after he finishes his current assignment as chief prosecutor.

"I've decided to request that this be my last assignment in the military," he told NPR in an interview. "That will afford a measure of continuity of the commissions process and it will enable me to stay at least until November 2014."

The departure of a chief prosecutor at Guantanamo has happened before, but under very different circumstances.

One chief prosecutor who preceded Martins was accused of rigging the military commissions process to ensure convictions.

Another quit after he said he felt pressured to include evidence derived from torture in commissions proceedings. He later said that he left because he didn't feel he could do that in good conscience.

Martins says his decision comes out of a need to make the commissions right. He says he wants to finish the job he started.

That job will be under even more scrutiny in the coming weeks. That's when Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other men accused of taking part in the 9–11 attacks are expected to be arraigned in a Guantanamo courtroom. Martins is keenly aware that everyone will be watching.

IN HONOR OF ELAINE DAVID

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Elaine David comes to us from Nova Scotia when her parents moved here to relocate in Mount Vernon where she graduated from high school, and by taking weekend and evening courses while working, she also graduated from Elizabeth Seton College.

As a hobby, she and her sister-in-law took classes in floral design and with the encouragement of her family, opened her own flower shop.

Elaine carried over that dedication into her community life. She is a devoted member of the Macedonian Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, a past member of the Black Women's Political Caucus of Westchester, and a member of several floral trade associations. She has received awards from Westchester School for Special Children, the Westchester Chapter of the National Association of Negro Professional Women's Club, the Empire State Funeral Directors Association and the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce.

For more than two decades Elaine David has served her community and the people in it faithfully and with devotion. I am happy to join with the Women's Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring her for this dedication and thank her for all she has given.

HONORING COLONEL GEORGE D. BURROW

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a decorated war veteran who has made countless sacrifices for our great nation. Retired Colonel George D. Burrow, an American hero, has received numerous medals and recognitions for his unwavering service.

Colonel Burrow was born on May 6, 1932 in Port Arthur, Texas. He began his military career in 1950, when he joined the Texas National Guard. By 1958, he graduated from Officer Candidate School as a Distinguished Military Graduate with an Army commission. Shortly after becoming an officer, Mr. Burrow became airborne and aviator qualified.

Colonel Burrow served five tours overseas during times of crisis, including in Germany, Korea and Vietnam. During these conflicts, Mr. Burrow built the reputation of a genuinely modest, superior warrior that executed his missions with phenomenal efficiency and brilliance.

One of the many examples of Burrow's impressive leadership was his guidance over the Bravo Troop of the famed 1st Squadron, 9th Calvary during the Vietnam War. Burrow commanded the 27 Huey helicopters of Bravo Troop and the legendary group of choppers acquired the nickname-''Burrow's Barbarians.'' Bravo Troop accounted for more than 2,000 confirmed enemy kills between April 1967 and February 1968.

Colonel Burrow demonstrated unparalleled bravery and perseverance during battle. He was shot down a total of 13 times in Vietnam. When asked about how he managed to survive these seemingly hopeless events, he doesn't boast of his courage and inordinate ability to lead. Instead, Burrow praises his fellow service men that courageously fought alongside him and often times rescued Colonel Burrow and his men.

Colonel George Burrow retired after 39 years of service to the United State of America; his medals include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Crosses (3rd Award), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (2nd Award), Air Medal (34th Award), Purple Heart (31st Award), DOD Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Master Army Aviator Wings, Parachute Badge, and Joint Chief of Staff Badge. Furthermore, to continue the remembrance of Burrow's service, he was inducted into the Infantry Hall of Fame in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, Retired Colonel George Burrow celebrated his Eightieth Birthday on May 6th, 2012 and it is a great honor for me to recognize an American hero on this day. I will conclude this account of Colonel Burrow's selfless accomplishments by asking my colleagues to join me in reflecting on, and recognizing him, as one of America's greatest men.

IN HONOR OF JAMES L. SIMMONS, JR.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, James L. Simmons, Jr., is a Yonkers native who has been giving back to his community for years. For many of those years he was owner/operator of a hair care salon in Yonkers while also serving as a community planner for affordable housing.

In 1999 Mr. Simmons started a partnership with the city of Yonkers to assist in developing affordable homes in distressed areas of southwest Yonkers. Under his leadership as Director of the Center for Urban Rehabilitation and Empowerment, CURE, as it is known, acquired numerous parcels of land in southwest Yonkers with the aid of the Bureau of Planning and Development.

With the land, Mr. Simmons, as general contractor, then obtained various grants and loans to complete two- and three-family homes. He acquired another parcel of land on which he built twelve condominium units and named the development after his late mother.

He had worked on numerous developments including the Waterfront Development Project Gazette Building, and he is now in the predevelopment stage of Cook's Landing, his largest project, which will be 77 affordable rental units.

Mr. Simmons has served on the Yonkers Community Advisory Committee and has received numerous awards for his achievements. He currently serves on the board of the Yonkers Community Action Program and is commissioner of the Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

I am proud to join with the Women's Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring James Simmons for his outstanding work in developing and building homes for those who need them most.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFELIA RUDER'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE CUBAN HEBREW CONGREGATION OF MIAMI

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a remarkable woman who has meant so much to our South Florida community—Ofelia Ruder. Ofelia has dedicated her life in service to the Cuban Hebrew Congregation of Miami for the last 50 years, starting out as Secretary in 1962 and eventually becoming its Executive Director.

For the last half-century, Ofelia has been the cornerstone of the Cuban Hebrew Congregation in Miami Beach. Through her tireless work on behalf of the congregation she has become an influential leader and role-model, not just for the Cuban-Jewish community, but for South Florida as a whole.

What started out as a small group of Jewish Cuban families in 1961, many of whom having been forced to flee their home country for a second time, the Cuban Hebrew Congregation has become a dynamic and thriving institution that represents a cultural and educational epicenter for Judaism in South Florida. The Cuban Hebrew Congregation's community, ''El Circulo,'' with Ofelia at the forefront, has been committed to outstanding service to the Jewish community. For more than half a century Ofelia has been actively engaging our entire community, committed to improving our South Florida community and instilling the importance of community service and unity among those around her.

In addition to her numerous accomplishments, Ofelia is a proud mother of two sons, Albert and Bernie, who have continued her legacy of public service and have become dedicated public servants themselves.

On behalf of ''El Circulo'' and the entire South Florida community, I wish to congratulate and thank Ofelia for her 50 years of service with the Cuban Hebrew Congregation. I expect to hear ever greater things yet from Ofelia and the Cuban Hebrew Congregation.

IN HONOR OF NICHELE JOHNSON AND BROTHER ARTHUR MUHAMMAD

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Nichele Johnson and her husband Arthur Muhammad are continuing working for the youth of Mount Vernon and they raise four daughters of their own.

Nichele is Corporation Council for the City of Mount Vernon but it is her work with our young people and their families as a counselor and mentor that led to her being honored tonight by the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation. Her husband, Brother Arthur Muhammad can usually be found on streets where troubled youth congregate, there and in the classrooms of Mount Vernon High School where he engages with some of our city's most troubled youth.

Nichele was raised to embrace her multicultural heritage, to appreciate the power of prayer, and to contribute to society. This manifests itself through her counseling, her giving our food at soup kitchens, to gathering clothing for the needy.

Brother Arthur combines a soft-spoken demeanor with, when necessary, the firmness of one who knows what he is talking about. The respect he has earned often leads to his being called on as a mediator for all age groups.

The Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation is honoring Nichele and Brother Arthur who have worked to help all in need, no matter what the need. I am proud to join with the Foundation in praising the work of Nichele Johnson and Brother Arthur Muhammed for what they have done so much to make Mount Vernon a better place to live.

HONORING JUNE BURKART

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a dedicated wife, proud supporter of our military and veterans, and most importantly, a great Alaskan. On April 26, 2012, Alaska lost one of its hardest working and most dedicated daughters, Mrs. June Burkart.

Mrs. Burkhart was a loving wife and mother whose life was defined by service to her family and community. For decades she served on the boards of countless organizations that supported Alaskans, most recently raising significant funds for the Wounded Warriors Program. As an avid outdoor lover, she worked to ensure that any wounded warrior who wished to hunt or fish had the opportunity to do so through the Safari Club International Alaska Chapter.

For days, I can continue praising her many accomplishments and the many ways that she improved my life and the lives of anyone who knew her. Her memory will continue to live on in our hearts and souls. I hope that June's family, and especially her husband Roy, can take comfort in the bond they had with June as it will be with them always. I hope the precious memories the family has of her will bring them comfort, and that they will come to find, in the lovely words of Hugh Robert Orr:

''They are not dead who live in lives they leave behind. In those whom they have blessed, they live a life again, and shall live through the years eternal life, and shall grow each day more beautiful, as time declares their good, forgets the rest, and proves their immortality.''

IN HONOR OF CANTOR ERIK CONTZIUS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Cantor fills a special role within the Jewish community; leading worship, officiating at lifecycle events, teaching adults and children, conducting synagogue music programs, and offering pastoral care.

Ten years ago Cantor Erik Contzius brought his talent, his commitment to Reform Judaism and unique personality to Temple Israel of New Rochelle. All the congregants have been touched by him, from the training of children to become B'nai Mitzhvahs, to making the High Holidays alive with sound, to entertaining us with song. He holds a special place at Temple Israel of New Rochelle.

Cantor Contzius founded Kol Simkha, the Temple's youth choir, as soon as he arrived in New Rochelle. A decade and hundreds of students later, Kol Simkha is going strong, singing the beloved prayers at Family Services. Cantor Contzius has cultivated many young voices in the congregation, giving them a chance to be heard during special services and on his own album, Teach My Lips a Blessing.

Cantor Contzius has given many distinguished solo presentations, most recently with the Westchester Chorale, singing the Darius Milhaud Service Sacré. Within the synagogue, he performed with its own jazz band, Yidlock, as part of the annual Follies show, and with the Chordsmen, a barbershop quartet.

In November of 2010, the Cantor's original composition, ''Ma Ashiv Ladonai,'' was premiered at the Vatican—a true honor.

He was raised in Parsippany, N.J., received his B.A. in Psychology from Rutgers College and went on to study abroad at the University of York, England. He received his Master of Sacred Music degree from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, School of Sacred Music, studying in Israel and New York.

Before becoming a part of the Temple Israel family, along with his wife Monica and son Jacob, he served as Cantor at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel of Elkins Park, PA, and Temple Israel of Omaha.

I enthusiastically join with Temple Israel of New Rochelle in honoring Cantor Erik Contzius for the joy, guidance and leadership he has provided over the past decade and wish him many more years among us.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Res. 242, Recognizing May As National Foster Care Month, I rise to recognize this month dedicated to celebrating selfless foster families who open their hearts and their homes for children in need as well as rededicate myself to ensuring that every child has an opportunity for a brighter future.

I am honored to be a charter member of the Congressional Caucus for Foster Youth, a caucus that allows Members to gain a better understanding of the current state of foster care throughout the nation and identify potential federal policy modifications that could improve outcomes for the children in our country's foster care systems. On February 24, 2012, in an effort to address many of the ongoing issues foster youth face, members of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth launched a national listening tour which began in my district.

Mr. Speaker, currently there are over 463,000 children living in foster care. These children have been placed in homes on the account of the physical, sexual and emotional abuse they have endured with their biological caretaker. My state of California currently has the largest foster care population with the number of youths in foster care tripling since 1981.

Sixty-five percent of children who are not placed in a permanent home emancipate themselves from the system often left unemployed, without a place to live and resorting to homeless shelters. Less than 3 percent go on to college and emancipated females end up four times more likely to receive public assistance compared to the overall population of the United States.

Almost 30,000 children who are victims of abuse and neglect are entrusted to the care of the Los Angeles County Juvenile Dependency Court system. The court's primary mission is to ensure that these youth are safe, happy and secure. As a result, Los Angeles established the country's first courthouse especially designed for children and families.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we provide more programs, events, activities, and funding that will educate Americans about the success of children placed in permanent homes, debunk myths about the process and acknowledge the thousands of children who could potentially become a part of these statistics. Through these efforts we can increase the rate of adoption, decrease the rate of homelessness among the youths in this group and help develop future leaders and innovative thinkers of tomorrow.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the families who have opened their hearts and homes to foster children. Foster parents play a critical role in the lives of some of the most vulnerable youth in California and across the country. They help hold our nation's social fabric together by ensuring that thousands of young people in this country stay on track towards successful futures.

In addition, I would like to commend SHIELDS for Families, an internationally recognized organization in my district that transforms the lives of parents by providing them with resources to prevent children from going into the foster care system. This month, we celebrate these unsung heroes and their efforts to change the lives of these children.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor H.R. 2012, Foster Care Mentoring Act, focused on connecting foster youth with responsible and caring adults and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact legislation that addresses the very real and persisting needs of young people in our foster cares system.

During this month, we recognize all those who are helping to improve the lives of children in foster care but it also serves as a reminder that more must be done. These children deserve to grow up in a loving home that is safe, happy, and most importantly one they can call their own.

IN HONOR OF ELEAZER AND SARI KLEIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Eleazer and Sari Klein are admirably refreshing in that despite their impressive accomplishments, they remain a sincerely caring, responsive and unassuming couple. Both have much to be proud of. They come from families who have created worlds of good in diverse arenas. They use their talents to run successful businesses and support organizations of Torah and chesed. And for all this, it is clear that they take most pride in raising children who are a credit to their families.

Eleazer's father, Rabbi Dr. Bernard Klein, z''l, originally from Munkatch, survived the Holocaust, and went on to receive Smicha from Torah Vodaath, attend Columbia University and become a practicing Rav and Chairman of the Department of History, Philosophy and Political Science at the City University of New York. Mrs. Shirley Klein, amu''sh, granddaughter of Rav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld zt''l, was a teacher and educator with a Masters in Education. Together, they infused their children with the primary goals of commitment to family, education and placing Torah values above all.

Sari's family, the esteemed Gotlib/Fink Family, remains one of the most respected families in Belgium. Her role models, Sari's parents and grandparents, realized success in business, but always kept at the top of their priorities raising a refined Torah family as well as doing their utmost to be Osek B'Tzarchei Tzibur. In a heart-warming gesture of generational bonding, Sari took their son, Michael, to Antwerp, to provide him the privilege of hearing his great-grandfather, Chazzan Fink, lead the tefillos this past Yom Kippur.

Catching a glimpse of Eleazer's modest demeanor walking into shul, ready to lain any kria, always with a sefer in his hand, one would be hard pressed to believe his imposing bio—Senior Partner in Schulte Roth & Zabel's corporate law department, rated one of NY's top attorneys by Super Lawyers, Senior Editor of the Yale Law Journal, noted legal speaker and author. And yet, he helped found the Agudah of Madison in Flatbush, is the first to deliver mishloach monos every Purim to his Rosh Yeshiva of Torah Vodaath, Rav Yisroel Reisman, Shlit''a, and makes himself available to dispense clarifying advice to anyone in need. With Smicha from Rav Pam zt''l, Eleazer maintains a very strong relationship with his Rabbeim, exemplifying what they taught: impeccable integrity, unflagging menschlikeit.

A graduate of Michlala and Stern, Sari, too is not complacent with past accomplishments. Juggling many roles—owner and manager of Virgo Business Centers which offers turnkey business offices, steadfast, sensitive confidante to friends on both sides of the ocean, organized chesed supporter—she takes overwhelming joy in being emotionally in tune with her husband and children. Truly, it is the Klein children who personify all that their parents and grandparents stand for—quietly strong, well mannered, articulate. Calling their children the Klein's ''masterpieces'', Rabbi Chaim Pechter, Menahel, comments, ''You cannot impose such things on children. Their behavior testifies to generations of midos tovos and hanhagos tovos in a home of Torah, Kedusha and Tahara.''

As Sari says, ''It's all about appreciating what you have and instilling the correct values into your children.'' It is our heartfelt brocha that all these extraordinary attributes, exemplifying ''Mah Tovu Ohalecha'' continue in their doros, ad bli dai.

May I have the honor of joining in congratulating Eleazer and Sari Klein as Guests of honor at the 13th Anniversary Dinner of Yeshiva Ohavei Torah.

HONORING ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a beacon of light in Tennessee. Built five decades ago on the belief that ''no child should die in the dawn of life,'' St. Jude is a place where children afflicted with disease, and parents burdened by lost hope, can find healing and the promise of tomorrow.

In its first ten years, the hard working medical team of St. Jude brought to 50 percent the survival rate for the most common form of childhood cancer. Building on that hard work and success, the research team of St. Jude continued to break through childhood disease barriers. Serving 7,800 active patients a year, the medical and professional staffs, along with volunteers around the country, serve the most vulnerable among us regardless of their ability to pay.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a glimmer of hope to the families of children faced with medical lost causes. I am thankful for the noble work of all those who are a part of the St. Jude community and look forward to the next 50 years of healing and hope. I rise today in support of St. Jude and ask my colleagues to join with me as we celebrate half a century of service to our children.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STOUGHTON AREA SENIOR CENTER

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of the Stoughton Area Senior Center and to recognize its outstanding commitment and contribution to our community.

The Stoughton Area Senior Center began operating out of the basement of Our Saviors Lutheran Church as a social gathering place for local seniors in 1972 and eventually relocated to the First Federal Bank building in 1994. Situated along the banks of the Yahara River, the Senior Center's distinctive Norwegian-style building not only provides essential support and programming, but also greets all of Stoughton's residents and visitors as they drive down Main Street and into town. Over the years both my staff and I have had the privilege of holding public meetings at the Senior Center.

The Senior Center is committed to the enrichment of the lives of seniors and their families through a wide array of programs. However, this building is a hub for much more than a few games of bingo or euchre. The vision and dedication of staff and volunteers has led to the development of innovative programs like Zumba and Tai Chi, classes on health insurance and economics, and support groups for families. A team of Case Managers strive to help seniors remain independent by providing information and guidance about local services. Additionally, the Senior Center prides itself on its nutritional program, which is funded through the Older Americans Act and directed by the staff nutritionist. Last year, the Senior Center served 4,531 meals in-house and delivered 15,140 more meals directly to homes.

From these vital services to community partnerships to annual pool tournaments, the Senior Center could not operate without the devotion and hard work of volunteers. Throughout the years, countless volunteers of all ages have contributed to and supported the Senior Center. In 2011, a total of 177 volunteers contributed a staggering 11,111 hours of service.

The Stoughton Area Senior Center believes that, ''Aging brings changes. You make life choices. We provide options.'' For the past 40 years, the Stoughton Area Senior Center has provided options, invaluable services, and programming for our seniors and community. I offer hearty congratulations to the staff, volunteers, community partners, and the City of Stoughton for remaining committed to providing the highest level of service to our seniors. I wish the Stoughton Area Senior Center the very best and many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF CALVIN JONES

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Calvin Jones, called CJ, has been involved with the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club, and counseling the youth of Mt. Vernon for more than 40 years. CJ first came to the Mt. Vernon Boy's Club at the age of 12 after he and another boy were seen fighting by then Director Dick Cuputo who stopped the fight and asked them to instead join the Club.

He would ask CJ, now a member, to help with odd jobs around the Boys Club and through his efforts and merit CJ was made a ''Lifetime Member'' of the Boys Club. In 1972 CJ was recruited by his brother James, who was Athletic Director and a basketball coach at the North Side unit of the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club, to become a basketball coach. Since then CJ has been a mentor and

counselor for thousands of children who have grown to become men and women living and serving in communities across America.

CJ has always stressed education and being a ''Student Athlete'' over just being an athlete. He continues to work at the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club as the Athletic Director and Head / Director of the Mount Vernon ''Elite'' AAU Basketball program.

Calvin Jones is being honored by the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation for his decades of good work for and among the youth of Mount Vernon. His motto, relevant to all of us, is that we should listen to our children because they have a lot to say and need to be heard.

I am proud to join with the Foundation in honoring CJ for his work in inculcating wise counsel into our young boys and girls, the fruit of which is growing and thriving across the country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $15,671,916,356,611.36. We've added $5,045,039,307,693.28 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORCHARDS CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th Anniversary of Orchards Children's Services of Southfield, Michigan. For five decades, Orchards has been providing critical support services to families and youth in need across Southeast Michigan.

It was 1958 when the founding women of Orchards, all members of the National Council of Jewish Women, gathered to address a growing dilemma in communities across the region: inadequate resources available for families of at-risk youth. All too often, at-risk youth would end up being removed from their families and moved to facilities outside of Michigan. This led to the separation of many families and to moments of crisis for them. It was just four years later that Orchards was born—first as a single residence serving just seven young boys, then later with additional homes serving adolescent boys and girls.

After officially launching as an independent child care agency in 1987, Orchards has grown and expanded its programs to meet the changing needs of at-risk youth in a community uniquely challenged by long-term economic uncertainty. However, in-spite of these obstacles, Orchards has endured and its thousands of clients have achieved a brighter future. Today, Orchards' programs include foster care and adoption services, a complete array of services for strengthening family cohesiveness and a set of programs geared toward providing at-risk youth with the opportunities necessary to ensure a well-rounded development.

The importance of Orchards' services, in a time of unprecedented pressure and financial crisis for families across Southeast Michigan, cannot be overstated. Each year, Orchards serves over four thousand children and families, two thousand of them with its family preservation services, and all of them are at-risk. And even more telling, the average age of the youth Orchards supports is eight, which underscores the existing need for these critical services at an early age. In just one measure of its success, 96 percent of the youth in the Detroit School System that are served by Orchards complete their high school education and graduate—a figure almost three times the current rate system wide.

Mr. Speaker, for half of a century, Orchards Children's Services has been an orchard for its clients; a place where they can grow and prosper. Many times, Orchards' employees and supporters have been there during seminal moments of crisis to support at-risk youth and their families with critical social services. There is no doubt that Orchards' work has strengthened the core of Michigan's communities, its families, and our greatest asset, our children. I am so pleased to recognize Orchards on achieving this significant milestone, and I wish its CEO Michael Williams, its Board Chairperson Carol Klein and its employees, supporters and clients many decades of success to come.

IN HONOR OF DEACON MIRIAM LOPEZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Miriam Lopez is a retired New York City police officer who worked jointly with federal agencies because of her expertise in laws that governed firearms and explosives. She was in charge of the inspection of fire arm dealers in New York City and the tri-state area and the renewal or removal of the dealers' licenses.

After retiring from the Police Department, Deacon Lopez became more involved in the church and with youth. She had mentored teenagers for years through the Police Athletic League program, and now she is a member of the Generation X Ministry in Kingdom Baptist Church, serves as a Deacon for the congregation, and is the office and bookstore manager. Her passion for youth and the community has led her to pursue mission work, which is her next endeavor. Deacon Lopez is mother, grandmother, sister and daughter as well as a pillar of strength to the community she serves.

Deacon Miriam Lopez is being honored by the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation and I join with the Foundation in congratulating her for her years of working with our youth.

HONORING MAURICE AND SOPHIE CONTI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and selflessness of Maurice and Sophie Conti of Muir Beach, California. On October 13, 2008, the Contis, along with their young children Massimo and Annabelle, led the rescue of three sailors stranded by the sinking of their yacht some 60 miles from Fiji. The Contis have been recognized internationally for putting their own lives at risk in the service of others, and their example is a true credit to the sailing community and the people of Marin County.

On the night of October 12, 2008, the Australian and New Zealand crew of the Timella issued a distress call after running aground on the Takau Lakaleka reef in Fijian waters. After contacting the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions, the Contis quickly realized that no other vessel was in a position to assist the Timella. In the darkness, they set out on the two-and-a-half hour voyage to meet the stranded sailors, whose ship and life raft had both already sunk by the time of their arrival.

While Sophie Conti handled the Contis' catamaran in swells measuring 10 to 15 feet, Maurice Conti carefully navigated the reef to reach the crew of the Timella by dinghy. Coordinating with rescue teams based in New Zealand, the Contis then brought the stranded sailors safely to Fiji.

The Contis were awarded the International Maritime Organization Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea in 2009, and Cruising Club of America has awarded them the 2009 Rod Stephens Trophy for Outstanding Seamanship. This month, Maurice and Sophie Conti are also receiving New Zealand Bravery Medals from the government of New Zealand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking the Conti family for their courage. They represent the best of the maritime tradition, and they are exemplary ambassadors for the civic-minded spirit of our community.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS STROKE AWARENESS MONTH AND HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of May as Stroke Awareness Month and High Blood Pressure Awareness Month. I encourage Americans to fight against stroke and high blood pressure and support individuals and their families who suffer from these devastating and debilitating afflictions.

In the United States, stroke is the third leading cause of death and the leading cause of long-term disability. In fact, one in four deaths in California is related to heart disease and stroke. While all ages, races and classes are at risk, African Americans are disproportionately at risk of experiencing high blood pressure and are almost twice as likely as other groups to experience a stroke.

As we enter into the month of May, we can all spread knowledge on prevention, changing the risk factors over which we have control. The Stroke Association of Southern California has reported that 70 percent of strokes are preventable through lifestyle changes, control of risk factors, and medical care. Several dangerous factors include physical inactivity and obesity, excessive alcohol consumption, and smoking.

The good news is that efforts aimed at prevention are working. Between the years 2000 and 2008, stroke mortality rates in California have declined from an average of 61.2 deaths per 100,000 people to 38.9 deaths per 100,000 people. We can continue this trend by raising awareness of risk factors and reducing inequalities in access to information and healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, American families deserve healthy and happy lives. This month let us rededicate ourselves to helping our families and neighbors become more aware of the risks and causes of high blood pressure and stroke.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOPKINS JUNIOR HIGH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable achievement of the Hopkins Junior High School Science Team of Fremont, California for winning the National Science Bowl. This is the second time in four years that Hopkins Junior High School has won the National Science Bowl, sponsored by the Department of Energy.

Hopkins Junior High owes their success to team members Karthik Bharathala, Dhruv Muley, Catherine Zeng, Brian Tseng, Mark Choi and their teacher Paul Ricks, who practiced tirelessly for this year's competition. Clearly, that practice certainly paid off.

In the National Science Bowl, judged by United States Energy Secretary Steven Chu, five member teams compete against each other in a fast paced Jeopardy style format where teams try to be the first to correctly answer an oral question posed about science or math. Nearly 14,000 students participated in regional tournaments and more than 100 teams competed in the Nationals.

This accomplishment is evidence of the quality of Fremont's public schools. The dedication of students, teachers and parents has led to this great success, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. We are incredibly proud of the Hopkins Junior High Science Team and their coach for this outstanding achievement.

IN HONOR OF MICCERICA THOMAS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those who give back to their communities as especial treasures for the actively seek to better their inheritance. Miccerica Thomas grew up in Mount Vernon on a quiet street where her parents owned their home. She began her studies in the city's public schools and graduated from Roosevelt High School in Yonkers. She went on to achieve a degree in Business Accounting from Westchester Community College. While she now lives in White Plains, she continues to devote most of her time to Mount Vernon.

When she began working with Henry Allen over eleven years ago, she knew she had found an organization where she would be committed to for the long haul. At that time Henry was producing the Two Fools Charity Basketball Games out of his own pocket. He had the idea of giving back to the elementary school that he went to when he came to New York after losing his parents. Miccerica volunteered to help out and has never left.

Whether seeking donations, stuffing bags or making phone calls, Miccerica is an essential component of the small team that has made an idea a reality. When it was impossible for anyone to be on site while workmen were constructing the new computer lab, Miccerica jumped in a car and came to Mount Vernon to supervise. When a child lost her telephone at a game, Miccerica scoured the bleachers looking for it.

When not working with the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation, Miccerica can be found shopping for her favorite items—shoes, or working with the White Plains Housing Authority's summer basketball games.

Her son, Quan, and daughter, Roben, are currently in college pursuing psychology and forensic science studies. While they're away at school she concentrates spending more time with her adopted daughters, Kassandra and Carolyn.

I enthusiastically join with the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation in honoring Miccerica Thomas for the good work she has done with the Foundation for the people of Mount Vernon.

IN SUPPORT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we have spent months in this House watching the Republicans create an unstable business environment and hurt U.S. jobs while they delay the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. While the Export-Import Bank supports hundreds of thousands of American jobs every year at no cost and no risk to the taxpayer, the Republicans have been stuck between their radical tea-party ideology of pure free-markets on one side and the Republican Majority's relationship with Delta Airlines on the other. We now have a compromise that does not extend the Bank for as long as it needs to be or for as much as it needs to be long-term. We also have a real lack of understanding in the Congress and in the Public of what this Export-Import Bank does.

Over 50 countries have export-import banks and all of the them are growing right now. While they are competing and running faster, the Republicans have us sitting on our hands and unilaterally disarming. I could fill this chamber with the bipartisan, non-partisan, expert studies telling us for decades that we here in the United States don't do a good job promoting our exports.

My constituents, the port in my district and the huge number of exporting businesses in my district need the same kind of support from their government that all of their Chinese, and Indian, and European competitors are getting.

The current deal that's being worked on only reauthorizes the Export-Import Bank for a few years. My bill uses the same bipartisan framework that exists today and would authorize it for 10, through 2021.

Building on this bipartisan framework, my bill would also truly expand the Export-Import Bank's lending authorities, doubling it to $200 Billion. The Export-Import Bank makes money for the taxpayer, is virtually no risk, and the lending authority should be big enough so that it will actually keep up with our exports into the foreseeable future. This higher authority, along with the longer extension, will create the stability businesses and their workers need.

Finally, my bill asks the Government Accountability Office to study the Export-Import Bank and compare it to the Export-Import Banks its competing against in other countries around the world. How are we competing now that we have real stability and a cap that's responsible but doesn't constrain us? What can the Exlm Bank do better? This is the kind of forward analysis Congress needs to help our exporters.

Mr. Speaker, it's long past time for us to get the lobbyists out of the way of all other American businesses so that we can create jobs here at home.

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support of H.R. 4215—The Medicare Pharmacy Transparency and Fair Auditing Act. This bill, introduced by Ms. MCMORRIS-RODGERS and Mr. ROSS, has bipartisan support and will result in more competitive practices in the Pharmaceutical industry. H.R. 4215 will require increased regulation of Pharmacy Benefit Managers, also known as PBMs, to ensure that consumers are receiving the care they deserve at competitive and fair costs.

Mr. Speaker, within the pharmaceutical industry there is a pressing issue concerning the lack of transparency surrounding PBM business practices. We cannot afford to allow these businesses to continue as usual in the pharmaceutical industry. The recent Express Scripts and Medco merger means that ''the big three'' PBMs will now control benefits for 72% of all Americans. I believe this makes it much more important that we act decisively and pass this legislation.

PBMs have engaged in practices that include: negotiating with drug manufacturers at the same time as employers and health plans to ensure they secure prescription drug plans that will benefit themselves, switching customers to higher priced plans and benefitting from both the rebate and higher payment without any benefit to the health plan provider and

employer, and also repeatedly changing pharmacy audit rules which makes it more difficult to ensure compliance. Mr. Speaker, these are only a few of the issues that plague loosely regulated PBMs and the pharmaceutical industry. We must bring this to an end.

H.R. 4215 will provide a greater level of transparency in PBM business practices, interactions with Medicare Part D, and other pharmaceutical stakeholders. It will increase regulation on PBMs, which are currently regulated in only a handful of states, and make certain that our Nation's pharmaceutical consumers are adequately protected. This should not be seen as a partisan issue, but rather, a quality of life issue that affects every single American.

Mr. Speaker, let's act now to pass this legislation and put a stop to anti-competitive practices in the prescription drug market. Let's protect consumers from being forced to pay higher prices for their medication. Let's do our part to lower healthcare costs, and ensure the best care for our constituents.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE SCOTT FOR RECEIVING THIS YEAR'S FEDERAL SERVICE AWARD

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michelle Scott of Raleigh, North Carolina, for receiving this year's Federal Service Award at the Department of Justice's annual victim's service awards. Having worked with crime victims for the past 12 years, she has shown great dedication to the people of North Carolina. The award she received recognizes service providers, other professionals, or volunteers, for their exceptional contributions and extraordinary impact on behalf of crime victims in Indian Country, on military installations, in national parks, or in other areas under federal jurisdiction.

Since 2003, Ms. Scott has led the biannual Federal Domestic Violence Conference in North Carolina. In response to the requirements of Title I of the Justice for All Act of 2004, Ms. Scott led the judges and prosecutors in the Eastern District of North Carolina to place the victim at the forefront of criminal proceedings. Ms. Scott developed and implemented model victim-witness training programs in Kosovo and Albania for judges, prosecutors, victim advocates, law enforcement offices, and non-governmental agencies.

I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Michelle Scott on receiving this year's Federal Service Award. I join with her family, friends, and colleagues in offering my praise and admiration for her work on behalf of crime victims here and abroad. I applaud what Michelle has done for the citizens of North Carolina and in Kosovo. We are lucky to have such a champion of victim's rights in our great state.

The 2nd district of North Carolina thrives on strong leaders like Michelle, who work hard every day to protect and serve the people of our community. I look forward to hearing about her future achievements, and may God continue to grant her success and happiness in all her endeavors.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRACY RANCH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tracy Ranch on the occasion of its 150th anniversary celebration. The Tracy Ranch has made a significant and historical impact on agriculture in Kern County. During its 150 year history, the Tracy Ranch has become a family-held operation that grows cotton, wheat, potatoes, tomatoes, almonds and pistachios. Beef raising rounds out the operations of Buttonwillow Land & Cattle Company, a partnership made up of three families: the Freys, Selvidges and Tracys.

The Tracy Ranch legacy officially began in 1862 when Ferdinand Tracy and Wellington Canfield formed the partnership Canfield & Tracy, a rangeland cattle operation. Their herds roamed the lower San Joaquin Valley, grazing on wild grass in an untamed dominion ruled by the likes of rattlesnakes, jackrabbits, coyotes and waterfowl. In 1875, Ferdinand married Ellen Baker, the widow of Colonel Thomas Baker. In 1898, Ferdinand's nephew, William Tracy, established what would be today's headquarters and historical park on Wildwood Road, 5 miles northeast of Buttonwillow. This era was marked by the raising of Belgian draft horses and later, ostriches. His marriage in 1904 to the daughter of another pioneer family, Fannie C. Rowlee, would yield six children.

With the death of William Tracy in 1941, his widow Fannie Tracy rallied her widespread children and their spouses back to the ranch. The result was a turning point that saved a ranch ravaged by bad luck of the 1920s and the Great Depression of the 1930s. Fueled by the talents and resources of the Freys, Selvidges and Tracys, made urgent by World War II, the ranch was transformed from an equine epoch into a mechanized farming operation. Today in the fifth generation, diversity is their strength. The Tracy Ranch is respected and should be honored for the achievement of their unity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work and dedication that the Tracy Ranch has put forth. Reaching its 150th year, the Tracy Ranch is joined today by only a handful of other surviving Kern County operations with roots going back to early California. I congratulate the Tracy Ranch on its many years of dedicated and successful work in California, and wish the families many successful years to come.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD SOSIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Richard Sosis is a committed social activist who has contributed to his communities through his work as a teacher and an attorney. He was born in 1941 in the Bronx to Phil, a union activist father, and Muriel, a mother active in tenant's-rights causes including the unsuccessful integration of Parkchester. His parents worked for racial and economic justice, rearing Richard in a household where politics was a constant conversation, even bringing him to demonstrations for civil rights causes.

This turned near tragic when the family attended a concert in Peekskill featuring Paul Robeson which was attacked by local racists protesting an integrated gathering. On the bus ride home, rocks smashed the bus windows and Muriel had to remove pieces of glass from his hair.

Not unexpectedly, Richard joined the civil rights and anti-war struggles of his youth. At CCNY he was a leader in gathering support for Freedom Rides and marches on Washington to press for greater civil rights for all Americans.

In 1963 he graduated and taught social studies teacher in a Queens middle school. In 1964 he entered St. John's University School of Law, graduating in 1967, passing the bar and becoming a practicing attorney. For eight years he had two full-time jobs—a teacher in Queens and as a lawyer in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

In 1971 Richard married Marion McBride, and they bought a brownstone in Cobble Hill. In 1975 their daughter Karin was born and in 1978 their son Andrew was born. Andrew passed away several years ago, and Karin lives and works in central Africa.

After Karin's birth Richard focused on teaching, with one of the first programs teaching law in a NYC public school. In 1995 he pursued his legal practice full-time.

Richard and Marion divorced in 1989, and Richard moved to Hillcrest Avenue and was elected President of the PTA at Albert Leonard Middle School. He met math teacher Judith Bobrow, and in 1991 they were married. Judith and Richard had a daughter Leah, in 1994, who is a senior and on the high honor roll at New Rochelle High School.

Richard has been on the Board of the New Rochelle Bar Association, and served as its president from 2007 to 2009. He continues his work with the Lawyer-in-the-Classroom program, which partners local attorneys with teachers and schools across the city.

Richard is the current Chair of the New Rochelle Zoning Board, having served on the board as a member and chair for almost 10 years.

For his years of service to his communities, I join with the New Rochelle Democratic Club in honoring Richard Sosis and wish him every success.

COMMEMORATING CINCO DE MAYO AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINO AMERICANS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, May 5 is the 150th anniversary of Cinco de Mayo which marks the historic triumph of the Mexican people over the French Army in Puebla. This holiday commemorates the Battle of Puebla where General Zaragoza and his ragtag band of patriots fought off the powerful and large French Army for their independence.

This battle and victory is an example of the many common bonds Mexicans and Americans have, such as, liberty and democracy.

This is also an example of the Mexican people's positive influence on the American people and culture through their continuous struggle for freedom. Today, young Mexican women and men serve in the Armed Forces defending our country from those who would do us harm.

Mr. Speaker, there are over 44 million Mexican-Americans living and contributing to the United States through their tenacious work ethic, positive energy and love for this country. As a representative of the 37th Congressional District of California which is home to over 300,000 constituents with Mexican and Latino heritage, it is my honor to rise in celebration of the Mexican and Latino people's struggles and achievements.

I am proud that Latinos have risen to leadership roles in every sector of American life—politics, law, medicine, entertainment, the media, sports, business, and the arts. Today there are 30 Latino Members of the United States Congress, including 7 California Democrats. I am privileged to serve with them in our fight to create jobs for Latinos and Latinas; make college more affordable for Latino young people, including by preventing interest rates on need-based student loans from doubling in July; and protecting Social Security and Medicare for the millions of Latino seniors who rely on these programs.

So on this glorious day let me wish my constituents, and all Americans, a very Happy Cinco de Mayo.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DAN UTLEY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report the tragic loss of a young man who was born and raised in Kentucky's second district.

Captain Dan Utley, born in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1979, and who was raised and educated in Glasgow, Kentucky, before graduating from the University of Louisville, was killed in action while serving in the U.S. Army in Mali on April 20, 2012, while on a training mission to help the people of that country combat terrorism.

Captain Utley was 33 years old. And I am told that in those 33 years he touched many lives with his intellect, his compassion, and his warmth. He was a sharp young man who, at every turn in his life, made the kind of selfless choices that define what it means to be an American hero. And make no mistake—Dan Utley and the members of America's Armed Forces who die defending our nation are indeed heroes. They put defending their country, their families, and our freedom ahead of their own lives.

During his Army service, Captain Utley served in many posts, all of them challenging and proof of his skill and talent. His deployments included serving in South Korea for 24 months, in Kuwait for 12 months, in Afghanistan for 13 months, and in Mali for seven months. It was in that North African country that Captain Utley lost his life.

A recent news article published by Reuters outlined the challenges facing Mali:

> Within weeks, Mali has plunged from being a sovereign democracy to a fractured territory without a state, occupied by competing rebel groups in the north while politicians and coup leaders in the south jostle for control of the capital Bamako.
>
> There is no sign the broken nation can be put back together soon—raising concerns among neighbors and Western powers of the emergence of a lawless ''rogue state'' exploited by al Qaeda and criminals.
>
> ''We have never been in such a dire situation at any other time in our history,'' said Mahmoud Dicko, influential head of the Islamic High Council in the poor former French colony once seen as a poster child for electoral democracy in West Africa.

Captain Utley was there because America is engaged in a worldwide fight against al Qaeda and other terrorist networks. His devotion to his country and to the less fortunate people of the third world took him to one of the most dangerous places on Earth. He made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the people of Mali and so that everyone back home can continue to enjoy freedom and safety. I am humbled every time I hear of one of these young men and women who have given their life so that their fellow citizens can enjoy their own life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Dan served with distinction during each of his missions. He served as a tactical communications platoon leader, an operations officer while in Kuwait, as aide-de-camp for the 160th Signal Brigade, and as a brigade civil affairs officer in the 101st Airborne. After completing a civil affairs qualifications course, Dan was assigned to F Company, 91st Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) as a Team Leader.

During the course of his service, Dan Utley won several awards and commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Combat Star, The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the NATO Medal. Captain Utley also received the Basic Parachutist Badge and his Thailand Jump Wings.

What I've been told about Dan Utley is what I think every parent ultimately wants for their children—that they grow up with a strong desire to serve their fellow man, their country, and their community. That they grow up with an incredible work ethic. That they grow up with compassion and a desire to make a difference.

Dan Utley lived that kind of life, and I couldn't agree more with Dr. Gary Gregg, the Director of the McConnell Center at the University of Louisville where Captain Utley was a graduate, who lamented, ''America has lost one of its rising stars.'' And to my friend, the Senior Senator from Kentucky, MITCH MCCONNELL, I offer my sympathy on the loss of one of the greatest McConnell Scholars who has passed through the wonderful program that he set up at the University of Louisville to nurture the next generation of leadership for our Commonwealth.

Dan Utley is no longer with us, but he had already grown into a great leader, an American hero, and will forever serve as an example to others who seek positions of leadership. If every person who desires a chance to lead had the heart and values of Dan Utley, I imagine we would be living in a much better world.

Today, I offer condolences to Captain Utley's widow, Captain Katie M. Utley, who we also thank for serving in America's military; to Captain Utley's father, Charles L. Utley; his mother, Linda H. Utley; his brother and sister-in-law, Charles L. Utley II and Maria; his brother and sister-in-law, Matthew R. Utley and Michelle; his nephews, Matthew Ryan Utley and Mason Robert Utley; his niece, Marleigh Rose Utley; his maternal grandmother, Pauline Haynes; his parents-in-law, Chris and Peggy Michael; his brother-in-law, Matthew Michael; and many other friends and family members.

I am saddened by this loss, but heartened at the enduring courage of those who serve in America's Armed Forces. Kentucky is home to a great many families who have lost loved ones in the War on Terrorism and in previous conflicts in which our country has been engaged. We mourn always for their loss, and remain eternally grateful for their sacrifice.

HONORING ELMER ELLIS LIBRARY AT THE UNIVERISTY OF MISSOURI

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elmer Ellis Library at the University of Missouri on its 150th year of service in the Federal Depository Library Program, a program whose origins date back to 1813, when Congress first authorized the printing and distribution of copies of the Journals of the House and Senate, and other documents the chambers had ordered printed. One hundred and fifty years is a long time to do anything, especially, I would argue, to keep track of our government's too-numerous-to-name documents. Of course, I say that in jest—retention and preservation of tangible and digital information is critical, and future generations and scholars need an accurate record of the proceedings and actions of their government.

Since 1813, depository libraries have safeguarded the public's right to know by collecting, organizing, maintaining, preserving and assisting users with information from the federal government. Government documents span a wide range—from agency information, appropriations, census data and technical reports to Supreme Court decisions and insertions into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, such as my remarks today.

I also would like to take this opportunity to recognize Elmer Ellis Library on its recent receipt of the Federal Depository Library Program Spotlight Award, which highlights that not only is the library one of the oldest participants of the program, starting its program in 1862 in the midst of the Civil War, it also has one of the largest collections in the country, housing 1.5 million federal and Missouri state documents. Unbelievably, some of these documents date back to the founding of our nation.

Since the Federal Depository Library Program's inception in 1813, much has changed. Depository libraries still act as the bridge between our nation's government and its services, offering free access and assistance to interested individuals. However, technology has

transformed the way we create, process, store and distribute information. This means depository libraries must face the challenge of migrating government information to newer formats. Congress appreciates all of depository libraries' hard work and hopes to help move forward on these issues with them.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Elmer Ellis Library and its current coordinator, Marie Concannon, on reaching this significant milestone. Here's to another 150 years of Elmer Ellis Library's chronicling this body's steps and missteps!

IN HONOR OF THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USS YF–415 TRAGEDY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and to honor the sacrifice of the men who lost their lives in a tragic accident on May 11, 1944, sixty-eight years ago. This tragedy occurred just fourteen miles off the coast of Massachusetts.

On that fateful day, the nine member crew of the USS YF–415 and twenty-one men from the Hingham, MA, Ammunition Depot were disposing of obsolete ammunition. The ship was loaded with one hundred fifty tons of ammunition and explosives. While they were performing their duties, the ammunition caught fire. The resulting fire and subsequent explosions lasted for nearly forty minutes. The ship went down and seventeen lives were lost. The USS *Zircon*, a weather observing ship, was fortunately nearby, and rescued fourteen men from the ocean.

From that day until July 20, 2003, the ship lay, undiscovered, at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. Amateur divers located the ship and reported it to the United States Navy. Once the United States Navy properly identified the ship, Navy divers were dispatched to investigate its remnants. Unfortunately, they were unable to find any trace of the missing men.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that today, we remember those men who lost their lives in the service of the United States of America sixty-eight years ago. Their courage and their devotion to their duty continue to inspire us today. It is appropriate that we as a nation express our condolences to their families who have suffered and endured their loss all these many years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add the names of these brave men into the RECORD so that all Americans may recognize their service and their sacrifice: William J. Bradley, Adell Braxton, Joseph F. Burke, Raymond N. Carr, Truman S. Chittick, George M. Cook, James Cox, Jr., Freddie Edwards, Jr., F.E. Federle, James S. Griffin, Charles R. Harris, Raymond L. Henry, Julian Jackson, Yee M. Jin, Mike Peschunka, Vernon Smith, James B. Turner.

CONGRESSIONAL ARTS COMPETITION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the 2012 Congressional Arts Competition, ''An Artistic Discovery.'' Their works of art are exceptional!

Sixty young men and women participated. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Jessica Menchon from Mt. Olive High School for her oil on canvas entitled, ''History of Waterloo Village.'' Second place was awarded to Vicki Liu from Ridge High School for her acrylic entitled, ''Shameless.'' Third place was awarded to Rachel Elias from Montville High School for her charcoal and chalk pastel entitled, ''Looking Up.''

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Marlaina Lutz from Roxbury High School for her photograph entitled, ''Swallow and Hummingbird'' and Nicolas McMillen from Parsippany Christian School for his photograph entitled, ''Brotherly Tree.''

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name and the title of their contest entries for the official RECORD.

Boonton High School; Emily DiLaura ''Spring Labor.''

Franchesca LeBrun ''Portrait (Self);'' Sara Leslie ''When I Was a Little Girl;'' Sabrina Noel ''My Dog Trixie.''

Chatham High School; Zachary Blake ''Job Interview;'' Laura Cheong ''Boxful;'' Megan Gesell ''Autumn Change;'' Natalie Smith ''Untitled.''

Hopatcong High School; Katelyn Downey ''Capitol Building;'' Katlyn Garcia ''The North Tower;'' Gregory P. Smyth III ''Sussex Swans.''

Livingston High School; Sharon Aliev ''Gossip Girls;'' Andrea Cao ''Another Plague;'' Laura Lin ''Breath;'' Christina Torrens ''Fracture.''

Madison High School; Teri Minogue ''Reflection;'' Kyle T. Smith ''Falling Snow.''

Millburn High School; Alexandra Bass ''Section of a Collection;'' Zoe Denenberg ''Liberty.''

Millburn High School; Emily Draper ''Roses.''

Montville High School; Alexa D'Arienzo ''Goddess in Despair;'' Nicolette Russo ''Dripping;'' Jesse Stathis ''Apart of Me.''

Morris Catholic High School; Austin Dimore ''Behind the Mask;'' Lucas Milone ''Swamp Tree;'' Darius Osario ''Koi Pond;'' Diamante Soto ''The Dancer.''

Morris Knolls High School; Stefanie Fischer ''Watchtower;'' Emily Kovach ''Venice;'' Kathleen McGlynn ''America.'' Abigail Schaefer ''King of Spades.''

Mt. Olive High School; Emily Coughlah ''Stasis;'' Michael DiCola ''Hidden Beneath;'' Lori Tatum ''Autumn Glow.''

Parsippany Christian School; Troy Costa ''Reunion;'' Elisee Jean-Pierre ''The Lonely Bench;'' Daniel McMillen ''Root Life.''

Parsippany High School; Ashley Del Rio ''Untitled.''

Pequannock High School; Emily Grimaldi ''Great Apple Massacre;'' Thomas Kozell ''Lovely Agony;'' James Quinn ''Cosmos Hair;'' Joaquin Roca ''Bloody Mary.''

Pope John XXIII High School; Kelly King ''Government.''

Ridge High School; Clair Chin ''In This Day and Age;'' Laura Cursi ''Freedom's Reflection;'' Sophie Harris ''Modern World.''

Roxbury High School; Brianna Krop ''My 3rd Period Daydream;'' Cara Resiak ''One Fish, Two Fish, Me Fish, You Fish;'' Elizabeth Synalovski ''Madison.''

Sparta High School; Melissa Hespelt ''Four Eyed.''

Watchung Hills Regional High School; Steve Dodge ''Windows;'' Jesse Kukucka ''Creep;'' Carly Vautin ''Plant;'' Briarma Wallisch ''Unforgotten.''

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of our fellow Americans walk through the exhibition and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF OSCAR T. KADLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask for the House's attention today to honor Mr. Oscar T. Kadle.

Oscar T. Kadle was born April 2, 1921 in Four Mile, Alabama. He married Martha Brooks on February 22, 1958 and they have always lived in the Saks community. He was drafted into the Army in 1941 first stationed at Fort McPherson, Georgia and then Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, for boot camp. He left Fort Bliss and went to Hawaii on his way to the South Pacific where he served his country during World War II.

Oscar took part in the invasion of Saipan in 1944. After Saipan he was sent to Iwo Jima. In 1945, he was on a ship headed for mainland Japan for an invasion there. The ship was stopped before arriving in Japan, and the soldiers were left sitting in the ocean for two days waiting for orders. The first Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima at this time. Oscar's ship was ordered back to Iwo Jima. The war ended not long after this and Oscar was headed home to be discharged from the Army at Fort Shelby, Mississippi.

After returning home Oscar went to work for Seven Up Bottling Company for 25 years. He left Seven Up to go into the plumbing business and later went to work for Davis & Daniels Construction where he worked for 15 years until his retirement.

Oscar was very active in the construction of Harvest Media Center in 1995 and later in the construction of the Harvest Church of God Sanctuary. He was saved in 1985 while he was driving back home from a job in Tuscaloosa. Oscar started attending Harvest Church of God in 1985.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mr. Kadle today and thank him for his outstanding service to our country.

THE SATELLITE SENTINEL PROJECT: MONITORING WAR CRIMES IN SUDAN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in late 2010 a remarkable and innovative project was established to use real-time satellite imagery to monitor and document the humanitarian and human rights situation on-the-ground in Sudan. The idea was the brainchild of activist and actor George Clooney and came into being through a remarkable collaboration between Clooney's humanitarian foundation Not on Our Watch, the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the incredible generosity of DigitalGlobal, the commercial satellite company that has donated thousands of images of activities taking place on-the-ground in Sudan. Through these images, the world has seen images in southern Sudan that may be mass graves, and others documenting military attacks on civilian targets. The project is an invaluable tool not only for understanding what is happening in real-time in Sudan, but in providing evidence that may one day be used in international trials for war crimes committed against Sudan's defenseless civilian population. A story about how this project was set up and the team of Harvard faculty, students and interns who monitor and analyze the satellite imagery was published in the April 29th edition of the Boston Globe Sunday Magazine. I salute the Satellite Sentinel Project and all its collaborators for their singular contribution in documenting the human rights and humanitarian reality in Sudan.

Attachment:

[From the Boston Globe Sunday Magazine, Apr. 29, 2012]

SPYLAB: HOW A TEAM OF HARVARD GEEKS IS USING A SATELLITE—PLUS A LITTLE HELP FROM GEORGE CLOONEY—TO REWRITE THE RULES OF HUMANITARIANISM

(By Michael Blanding)

Late-afternoon light slants outside the windows of a Harvard Square conference room where half a dozen twenty- and thirty-somethings huddle around a table covered with laptops, several cups of coffee, and one falafel sandwich. It could be a grad student study session, at least until a young woman named Brittany Card stands up in front of a white board covered in drawings of soldiers and tanks in Sudan.

''I'm just going to go through the sitrep from memory, so everyone's on the same page,'' Card begins, sounding more like a general in uniform than a 23-year-old in pearls and a plum-colored dress. Her situation report on the afternoon of March 27 goes on to cite massive troop movements, aerial bombardments, and a flurry of acronyms. As she talks, the group looks at satellite images of scrub desert and buildings projected on a pull-down screen at the far end of the room.

Last year, South Sudan split from Sudan, and the North African countries have teetered on the verge of war ever since. A day earlier, Card continues, the fragile cease-fire seemed to snap. It appeared that Sudan Armed Forces (SAP) had bombed an oil field in South Sudan; meanwhile, southern militias from the Sudan People's liberation Army (SPLA) had apparently attacked an oil field in the north. The question was, who started the fighting—and what would happen next?

Card is the data analysis coordinator for The Satellite Sentinel Project, which has been asking questions like this since late 2010, when a foundation cofounded by actor George Clooney put up the money for an audacious project to use satellites to spy on combatants in an active conflict zone. Operating out of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, the project's goal is to protect civilians, but to do that the team has had to learn to think like military commanders.

''Is this a SAF play or a southern play?'' asks Satellite Sentinel Project's director of operations, Nathaniel Raymond, a 34-year-old with mussed-up hair and tortoiseshell glasses.

''Whoever's play it is,'' replies Benjamin Davies, the 34-year-old fast-talking deputy director, ''we had rapid events take place'' on the border.

And while they weren't watching. like everyone else, they had been focused on Sudan's Kauda Valley, where the Sudanese government has hemmed in rebels and civilians alike, blocking food shipments and conducting bombing raids that drive them into the surrounding Nuba Mountains.

The team begins throwing out ideas for what could be happening.

Davies theorizes the Sudan military could finally be preparing for an assault on the Kauda Valley. No, Raymond says; they would have seen more activity from all the troops in that area. ''It's like The Two Towers. You look out, and there are a lot of orcs and torches,'' he says. If you're stuck in the Nuba Mountains, he adds, ''you are saying, 'Where is Gandalf right about now? Can you text him again?' ''

The group is fond of movie analogies. Before the night is through, they'll reference Harry Potter, The Matrix, WarGames, and The Hunt for Red October as part of their unusual mix of war-room bravado, nonprofit earnestness, and dorm-room antics.

Suddenly a thought occurs to Raymond: What if the SAF troop buildup in Kauda is a trick to draw in southern rebels? He slams the table. ''Oh man, it's obvious. You draw them in and then you hit their flanks.'' He points to an area in Sudan by the cities of Muglad and Babanusa, where tanks dropped off by train would have an uncontested route to the border. In minutes, Card finds that the nomads usually seen in the region are much farther south—that could mean they've been driven out. The team's manager of imagery analysis, Isaac Baker, 32, calls up satellite shots that show roads being built from Muglad and tanks stationed in Babanusa. The evidence is mounting.

This theory would be a change from the one the Satellite Sentinel Project has been building. Just a week earlier, on March 16, Clooney and other activists led a protest in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, D.C., to draw attention to the plight of the refugees in the Nuba Mountains. ''It's about to start raining, and once it starts raining there, thousands of people are going to die,'' the actor said. He then crossed a police line and was arrested, and his message was broadcast everywhere from CNN to TMZ.

Now, however, the Harvard group suspects everyone was looking at the wrong spot. If their theory proves true, they will have predicted an invasion before it happened. If it's not, they will have wasted thousands of dollars in free imagery from a satellite company that has already given them millions' worth, and taken their eyes off the real conflict ''How confident do we feel about this?'' Raymond asks.

They decide to go for it. Since the images won't come in until tomorrow, all they can do now is wait. It's close to 9 p.m. when the group breaks up. ''It's addictive, isn't it?'' says Jody Heck, a Harvard sophomore. ''I have to study for a 10 o'clock exam tomorrow''

Using satellites to search for war crimes in the Sudan was George Clooney's idea. He had started making trips to the country six years ago. In October 2010, just months before South Sudan voted to declare independence, he returned with the Enough Project, a Washington-based nongovernmental organization working to end genocide and other crimes against humanity. ''If entertainment is going to trump news,'' Clooney says by phone from Los Angeles, ''then entertainment should go where the news is.''

Whenever violence had occurred in Sudan in the past, the government had always been able to deny it Sitting in the desert one night with Enough's cofounder, John Prendergast, Clooney asked, ''Why is it that you can Google Earth my house, but you can't do the same thing to war criminals?'' There had to be away, he continued, they could turn satellites into the humanitarian equivalent of paparazzi.

They could certainly try, figured Jonathan Hutson, Enough's communications director. He had previously worked with Nathaniel Raymond at Physicians for Human Rights in Cambridge, where they had used them to investigate mass graves in Afghanistan. A few nights after Clooney's trip, Hutson found himself in the actor's suite at D.C.'s Willard InterContinental, eating pizza and setting up a conference call with Google and the United Nations. Their goal, Hutson says, was to figure out a way to ''stop a war before it starts:''

It took less than three months for the Enough team to launch the Satellite Sentinel Project, with $750,000 in seed money from Not on Our Watch, the humanitarian foundation Clooney started with actors Don Cheadle, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon and others. Hutson got Raymond to direct the operations of the project, and Raymond got Harvard to host it. Finally commercial satellite company DigitalGlobe agreed to donate images—which can cost thousands of dollars apiece—and helped train Isaac Baker and student interns to analyze the footage.

With four staff members and a half-dozen interns, the new team quickly learned to search for clues of impending attacks. Nine after launching the project, they detected SAF troops gathering within 40 miles of the Sudanese village of Kurmuk. After the Satellite Sentinel Project issued a report about it over the Internet, more than 1,500 villagers fled across the border to Ethiopia. By the time the invasion took place, there were few people left to kill. ''We saw that coming and went all Paul Revere up in that,'' Raymond says.

The project's ability to warn civilians of impending violence ''is unique in my experience,'' says Stephen Wood, an ex-CIA analyst who is vice president of DigitalGlobe's Analysis Center. Just as important, though, is how they document past abuses. ''We've watched villages being absolutely destroyed, and being able to help explain how dire that is has been very significant.''

Last summer, for instance, the Satellite Sentinel Project alleged Sudan was killing

civilians and burying them in mass graves in the town of Kadugli. Yet in a Washington Post article, the United States' special envoy to Sudan said US intelligence reports showed no evidence such graves actually existed.

The team kept looking. ''We had multiple people speaking to us saying bodies were being buried near a [particular] water tower,'' recalls Benjamin Davies. One day, Ben Wang, an 18-year-old intern from Tufts, was looking at satellite images when he noticed the tower had moved. He pointed to a hole in the ground where it had been. ''The grave is there,'' he said.

Over the next month, the team watched the tower move back to its original place, covering up the grave. In August, they released a report and, by year's end, Time magazine reported that the International Criminal Court was investigating war crimes based largely on information gathered by the group.

As Satellite Sentinel Project reports were increasingly being cited by Congress members and UN officials, the team began to realize something new was happening. Rather than remaining passive observers, they were affecting the actions of the combatants. The Sudan Armed Forces started hiding their tanks inside tarps and bunkers, camouflaging them not from the enemy on the ground but from a satellite 300 miles above it. Major offensives began starting on American holidays—Thanksgiving, Presidents' Day weekend—as if the fighters hoped the people watching in Cambridge would be away from their computers. Then this past January, days after the project issued a report mentioning road construction, 29 Chinese workers helping build the road for the SAF—innocents in the conflict—were kidnapped by Sudanese rebels. They weren't released for 11 days. ''It was the sum of all fears,'' Raymond says. ''It's what we work every day to avoid.''

Raymond and the others at Harvard may toil on laptops half a world away from any violence, but their work isn't virtual. Every member of the team has had ''Sudan dreams,'' as they call their nightmares of shooting and being shot. ''There is an immense intimacy to the violence; Raymond says. ''We are not sifting through reports to create a static archive of events. We are actually affecting the ways in which perpetrators make decisions.''

It's a heady responsibility for a team whose eldest member is 34. But while members hasten to add that Harvard professors and DigitalGlobe analysts are advising their moves, there is something about the digital generation of activists that uniquely suits them to the task. ''We could not reproduce this with people who have been trained in other [nongovernmental organizations],'' says Davies. The qualities said to characterize Generation Y—the ability to multitask on multiple technologies, a facility for social networking and teamwork, and even the individual sense of entitlement over deference to hierarchy—all help this group analyze data and make decisions quickly. ''People overvalue expertise,'' says Raymond, perhaps the first time those words have been spoken at Harvard. ''Critical thinking and the ability to learn complex systems is more important than some one walking in with six PhDs.''

The amateur satellite sleuths were put to the test in March when Clooney was set to meet with President Obama and testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On a recent trip to the Nuba Mountains, he'd witnessed a rocket attack and interviewed children who had lost limbs from bombings—but his testimony would not be proof. And while the Satellite Sentinel Project had satellite images from the time showing smoke from alleged bombings, they couldn't find the ''shooter''—artillery or aircraft—that caused it ''We are presenting a report with the biggest movie star in the world meeting with the president of the United States,'' recalls Raymond. ''You want to find the shooter.''

Baker kept at it. After days of triangulating from nearby airstrips and squinting at his computer screen, he finally noticed a speck he hadn't seen before—it was an Antonov AN–26, a Soviet-era cargo plane Sudan uses as a makeshift bomber. ''This was literally the smoking gun,'' says Davies.

Two days later, Clooney showed the satellite image to the Senate committee, with the Antonov outlined in blue. He credited the Harvard team with the evidence.

''Their level of expertise is incredible, but more than that is their level of commitment,'' Clooney says now. ''Sometimes they are up all night trying to figure this stuff out, for no other reason than they are trying to save lives. And they don't get enough acknowledgment for that.''

It looks as if the project staff has been up all night. It's March 29, two days after they'd decided to search for the flanking attack, and they're again gathered around their conference table. Eyes are bleary, and the group is quiet. They've got the satellite images they asked for, but not the proof of an imminent invasion. ''We wanted a softball,'' Davies says. ''Sometimes you don't get that.''

Baker, as he tends to do, is still searching his laptop screen for overlooked clues. Davies starts projecting Beyonce videos from YouTube on the screen. ''We see a lot of dead bodies in here,'' he says. ''Beyonce is deadbody kryptonite.''

After more than an hour, Bakes finds some new checkpoints and signs of tank movements, but still no smoking gun. Raymond prepares to call it a night.

In the days to come, Baker will find two tanks that could signal an invasion. By late April, news reports would indicate the region edging ever closer to wax. After South Sudan seized the oil-rich Sudanese town of Heglig, Sudan bombed a bridge in South Sudan, killing several civilians. Despite pleas from the United Nations and African Union, the violence would continue. The team may have been incorrect about the location of attacks, but they had accurately predicted SAF was mobilizing for a fight.

That realization is still weeks away, though, and tonight the mood is somber. ''Should we move [the satellite's focus] south or stay tight on the border?'' Raymond muses aloud.

The question is a fraught one. After providing some $16 million in pro bono imagery and analysis, DigitalGlobe has been negotiating new pay rates going forward. While Clooney has helped raise an additional million dollars for the project over the past year, much of that money has already been spent. That means even as violence escalates in Africa; the future of the Satellite Sentinel Project is in doubt. ''I am doing the best I can to raise money through speaking engagements,'' Clooney says. ''I believe we are going to be able to keep this up. The question is can we find ways to sustain it.''

For now, though, it's time for the team to regroup. ''This is not a bad day; this is a good day,'' says Raymond, rallying the troops with a kind of battlefield speech. Redirecting the satellite ''was the right thing to do,' he says. ''We needed to make sure we were seeing the whole picture.''

HONORING MARGARET BRACEY PLEASANTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Margaret Bracy Pleasants, a Florida-born teacher and active member of her community. Ms. Pleasants was 79 years of age.

Ms. Pleasants placed great value in her involvement in various civic organizations and social clubs. Despite moving several times throughout her life, Ms. Pleasants was always an active member of her community, and made lasting connections with her neighbors. From her humble beginnings in Jacksonville, Florida, to her eventual move to Texas and California, Ms. Pleasants always left a lasting impression on those around her.

Ms. Pleasants was blessed with musical talents, and used them in service to her local church.

Ms. Pleasants always wanted to become an educator, and it was her dream to inspire future generations. She taught at the Bryant Academy and later at Jack Yates High School in Houston, Texas. Ms. Pleasants inspired her students and taught them the value of life. While teaching at Whaley Middle School in California, Ms. Pleasants formed the Human Relations Club, a group focused on bringing multicultural events to the entire student body. She used her love of different cultures to inspire her students, expand their horizons, and help them to embrace cultural diversity.

Mr. Speaker, Margaret Pleasants enjoyed many simple pastimes and was always eager to share in those experiences with others. She understood well the importance of living in the moment and bestowing those values upon future generations. While her passing comes as a great loss to many, we may continue to look to her life for inspiration.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCCUPATION OF SHUSHA IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, given the significance of this week to the U.S.-Azerbaijan bilateral relationship, it is important to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Occupation of Shusha in Azerbaijan. Shusha lies within the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and is another painful reminder of the ongoing conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the region.

Twenty years ago today, Armenian forces stormed the strategically important town of Shusha, which lies on a hill just over three miles away from the Nagorno-Karabakh capital of Stepanakert. The town was attacked at the break of dawn from three sides, trapping Azeri military units and civilians on their hilltop.

For hours the town was shelled, killing and wounding thousands of men, women, and children, and the attacking forces have occupied it ever since.

As a result of this tragic incident, the rich history and culture of Shusha remains inaccessible to the Azeri people who are prohibited from visiting the ancient Azeri museums, religious sites, musical schools, and historical sites of their past.

Despite four United Nations resolutions insisting that the Nagorno-Karabakh region—and by extension, the town of Shusha—legally belongs to Azerbaijan, the region remains war-torn and steeped in conflict.

Today we remember those who died defending their homeland and support those who are still affected, unable to return to the homes from which they were separated.

My hope is that this anniversary will provide another opportunity to work together to ensure a peaceable, lasting resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict so that people from both nations will no longer suffer.

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 Tuesday, May 8, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 9

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Economic Policy Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the National Flood Insurance Program, focusing on the need for long-term reauthorization and reform.
SD–538

Appropriations
Department of Homeland Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Coast Guard.
SD–138

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Joseph G. Jordan, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, Executive Office of the President.
SD–342

Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Central Command and Africa Command Programs.
SVC–217

2 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine limiting Federal support for financial institutions.
SD–538

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the need for privacy protections, focusing on perspectives from the Administration and the Federal Trade Commission.
SR–253

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert E. Bacharach, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Paul William Grimm, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, John E. Dowdell, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, Mark E. Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, and Brian J. Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.
SD–226

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine building and maintaining an effective human resource workforce in the Federal government.
SD–342

Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.
SH–219

3:30 p.m.
Appropriations
Financial Service and General Government Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine expanding broadband access, promoting innovation, and protecting consumers in a communications revolution, focusing on fiscal year 2013 resource needs for the Federal Communications Commission.
SD–138

MAY 10

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 2374, to amend the Helium Act to ensure the expedient and responsible draw-down of the Federal Helium Reserve in a manner that protects the interests of private industry, the scientific, medical, and industrial communities, commercial users, and Federal agencies.
SD–366

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patricia K. Falcone, of California, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, Marietta S. Robinson, of Michigan, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and William P. Doyle, of Pennsylvania, and Richard A. Lidinsky, Jr., of Maryland, both to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner.
SR–253

Finance
To hold hearings to examine Medicare physician payments, focusing on understanding the past so we can envision the future.
SD–215

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), focusing on Chicago and beyond.
SD–419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine helping the middle class balance work and family.
SD–430

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 2276, to permit Federal officers to remove cases involving crimes of violence to Federal court, S. 2554, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017, and the nominations of David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman, James Xavier Dempsey, of California, Elisebeth Collins Cook, of Illinois, Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, and Patricia M. Wald, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.
SD–226

Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine current readiness of U.S. forces in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–232A

10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Pacific Command Programs.
SVC–217

MAY 16

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine seamless transition, focusing on a review of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System.
SH–216

MAY 17

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 2146, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to create a market-oriented standard for clean electric energy generation.
SD–366

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine creating positive learning environments for all students.
SD–G50

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine fulfilling the Federal trust responsibility, focusing on the foundation of

the government-to-government relationship.

SD–628

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–232A

11 a.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SD–G50

2 p.m.
Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–232A

3:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Airland Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–232A

5 p.m.
Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–232A

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–232A

2:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–222

MAY 24

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–222

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine programs and services for native veterans.

SD–628

MAY 25

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–222

CANCELLATIONS

MAY 10

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine new tax burdens on tribal self-determination.

SD–628