

shaped the editorial board for more than 40 years. Throughout his esteemed career, Keith has received many awards and accolades but perhaps none as impressive as his most recent. This spring, he received the Society of Professional Journalists' gold medal, one of the most prestigious honors for editorial writing in the country, for his work on the proposed merger of the University of Louisville hospital.

A proud graduate of Leadership Louisville, he is a vibrant participant in the great issues confronting all of Kentucky. He constantly strives to promote equal rights for all and to advance the progressive principles of the New Deal, the New Frontier, and Great Society. Long after his retirement, the work he did both in and outside of the newsroom will continue to have an impact on Louisville and all of Kentucky. Keith Runyon leaves big shoes to fill at the Louisville Courier-Journal, and I wish him, his wife Meme, and his family the best in their future endeavors. I congratulate him on his stellar career and thank him for all he has done for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

HONORING COL. GREGORY DRAGOO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge Colonel Gregory F. Dragoo upon his retirement after having served this great Nation for 29 years. Colonel Dragoo most recently served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Special Access Program Central Office, responsible for the DOD coordination of programs assigned to the Air Force.

In 1983, Colonel Dragoo received his Second Lieutenant commission from the Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, TX. He completed his undergraduate navigator training and was assigned to B-52Gs at the 46th Bomb Squadron in North Dakota in 1985.

After being selected a part of the initial cadre of aircrew selected to fly the B-1, Colonel Dragoo was selected in 1989, as the first B-1 Weapon Systems Officer to attend the USAF Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, CA.

Following his first flight test tour in the 419th Test Squadron, Colonel Dragoo returned in 1993, to the Test Pilot School as an instructor. From there, he spent the next two years in the B-1 and Tri-Service Standoff Attack Missile Program Offices at Wright-Patterson, OH followed by a year at Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) at Maxwell AFB, AL.

In 1996, Colonel Dragoo returned to Edwards AFB as Operations Officer of the 419th Flight Test Squadron. There, he was dual-qualified in the B-52 and B-1 and responsible for all B-52, B-1, and B-2 Flight Test operations.

Colonel Dragoo was next assigned in 2000 to the Pentagon as the Headquarters Air Force Plans and Programs bomber programmer responsible for programming the budget and force structure of the B-52, B-1, B-2, and Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles. In 2003, Colonel Dragoo attended the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, AL, and upon graduation was assigned as the Deputy Director and then Director of the Weapons Division of the Secretariat of the Air Force Capability Di-

rectorate responsible for coordinating the programmatic issues of all Air Force weapons acquisition programs.

In 2006, Colonel Dragoo was selected to command the Air Combat Command's Electronic Warfare Group at Eglin AFB, FL. This 450-person group was responsible for delivering and evaluating electronic warfare software for the entire Combat Air Force.

Following his command assignment, Colonel Dragoo was assigned to the Pentagon as Deputy Director of the Secretariat of the Air Force Special Programs Directorate where he served until assuming his current position in the Office of the Secretary of Defense Special Programs office. In conjunction with his permanent assignments, Colonel Dragoo deployed in 2001 as Chief of Staff, Combined Air Operations Center, J-3, Prince Sultan Air Base Saudi Arabia; in 2004 as Air Liaison Officer, C3 Plans, Multi-National Force-Iraq, Baghdad; and in 2007 as Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, Combined Air Power Transition Force, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Colonel Dragoo is married to the former Teresa K. Wisner. They have two happily married children, three incredibly adorable grandchildren, and will celebrate 31 years of marriage this year.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 29 years, Colonel Dragoo has faithfully served our nation as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. As he enters the next phase of his life with his beloved wife Teresa, their two children Melissa and husband Shawn, and Matthew and wife Lauren, and their three wonderful grandchildren, Mackenzie, Carson, and Daisy, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, excellence.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Gregory F. Dragoo upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

RECOGNIZING THE HUMAN COST OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the human cost of the war in Afghanistan. Last Thursday, June 14th, Marine Corporal Taylor Baune, of Andover, Minnesota, was killed in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was 21 years old, and had married his high school sweetheart just three months ago. Corporal Baune was the 2000th American killed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

We often speak of the financial cost of the war in Afghanistan, which has grown to \$289 million per day. Although this is a staggering figure, the human cost of the war is beyond measure.

Just last month, a young man from my district, Travis Morgado, was killed in Kandahar Province. Travis was an athlete who enjoyed basketball and football. He joined the Army after graduating from the University of Washington with a degree in civil engineering, expressing a desire to give back to his country. Second Lieutenant Morgado leaves behind his mother, Andrea, and stepfather, Dean Kessler,

his father, Joe, and stepmother, Nancy, as well as two younger brothers, a stepsister, and a stepbrother. He is remembered as a loving big brother, and a positive role model for his younger cousins.

I would also like to recognize Marine Corporal Kevin Cueto of San Jose, who was killed in action nearly two years ago, on June 24, 2010, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. He was 23 years old. Corporal Cueto grew up in San Jose, and later moved to Campbell to live with his father. At Westmont High School, Kevin served in the Reserve Officers Training Corps and was a member of the football, baseball, and wrestling teams. He was also involved with the debate team. After graduating from high school, determined to serve his country, Kevin enlisted in the Marines. Corporal Cueto served a tour in Iraq in 2009, before being deployed to Afghanistan. Corporal Cueto has left behind his father, Phillip Cueto, his mother, Kelley Greenhaw, and a younger brother.

Finally, many mourned the loss of Pat Tillman. Pat grew up in my district. He was a star football player at Leland High School in San Jose, and earned a scholarship to Arizona State University. He helped lead ASU to the Rose Bowl in 1997, and was selected as the team's most valuable player as well as the Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year. As a student, Pat also excelled, earning the Clyde B. Smith Academic Award, the Sporting News Honda Scholar-Athlete of the Year, and the Sun Angel Student Athlete of Year awards during his time at ASU. Pat was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals in 1998, and began a promising career as a professional football player. However, when the United States invaded Afghanistan in 2001, Pat and his brother, Kevin, decided to enlist. Pat married his high school sweetheart, Marie, and became an Army Ranger, serving tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Corporal Tillman was killed in Afghanistan. He left behind his wife, Marie, his father, Patrick, his mother, Mary, and two younger brothers.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to these brave young men and their families as we mark this solemn milestone. Two thousand American soldiers have paid the ultimate price in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Countless others have suffered wounds, both physical and mental. The human cost of the war in Afghanistan has been immense, and I urge my colleagues to support a safe, immediate, and orderly withdrawal of our troops, and to ensure that our veterans, who have sacrificed so much, are given the care and benefits that they deserve.

IN HONOR OF THE OLD MISSION CHURCH OF SAN JUAN BATISTA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Anniversary of the dedication of the "Mission of Music," the Old Mission Church of San Juan Bautista. On June 23, 2012 the Mission celebrates the anniversary of its dedication and an unbroken succession of pastors since its founding by the Franciscan order in 1812.

The Mission, the fifteenth and largest of California's twenty-one missions, was established by the Franciscan friars and dedicated in 1797 by Father Fermín Francisco de Lasuén to its patron, St. John the Baptist. For the last two centuries, the Mission has served mass daily to parishioners and visitors, including the Amah Mutsun and other native California Indians who first inhabited the surrounding area.

Today the Mission continues to function as an active parish within the Catholic Diocese of Monterey. The Mission has been included in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Historic Register. With three naves it is the largest and one of the tallest missions in California. It also features the only Spanish Plaza in its original configuration remaining in California.

The bi-centennial dedication of the Mission honors the influence of Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and American settler influence on the California Central Coast. The 200th Anniversary will be marked with a spectacular fiesta and procession from the Mission to downtown San Juan Bautista. Funds earned from the celebrations will go toward unearthing a newly discovered chapel site in the area as well as for maintenance and restoration of the Mission basilica and its associated buildings.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I am not alone in recognizing the continuous work of the mission church in supporting the community of San Juan Bautista, including its role as a significant visitor destination in the region. For all the Mission has managed to contribute to the community and for all that it will undoubtedly continue to do I extend my most sincere thanks to it and wish it the best as it moves into a third century of service to the community of San Juan Bautista.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, more than three and a half years ago an impoundment holding disposed ash waste broke open, creating a massive spill in Kingston, Tennessee. The spill covered entire neighborhoods and the Clinch River with over one billion gallons of coal fly ash—displacing residents and resulting in \$1.2 billion in clean up costs.

The accident underscored the need for strong rules to ensure structural stability and the safety of coal ash impoundments. Yet, as of today, no national rules have been put into place to prevent another Kingston spill.

Two years ago the Environmental Protection Agency proposed the first-ever regulations to ensure the safe disposal and management of coal ash from power plants under the nation's primary law for regulating solid waste, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

EPA presented two regulatory options: regulating coal ash as hazardous waste under Subtitle C or regulating coal ash as a non-haz-

ardous waste under Subtitle D. But the EPA's proposal has stalled creating uncertainty for businesses and families.

As I said when the House of Representatives considered this issue last October, I have concerns that designating fly ash as a hazardous material will have major impacts on the recycling and reuse of fly ash to manufacture wallboard, roofing materials and bricks, and especially concrete.

In 2008 alone, the concrete industry used 15.8 million tons of fly ash in the manufacturing of ready mixed concrete making it the most widely used supplemental cementing material. When combined with cement, fly ash improves the durability, strength, constructability, and economy of concrete.

It also has huge environmental benefits. Using coal ash—an industrial byproduct—in concrete results in longer lasting structures and reduction in the amount of waste materials sent to landfills, raw materials extracted, energy required for production, and air emissions, including carbon dioxide.

A "hazardous" designation of fly ash could put these benefits in jeopardy. It could make fly ash storage and transportation more expensive, and create a legal environment that would deter cement manufacturers from recycling fly ash in cement production.

The result would not only be devastating for the cement manufacturing industry and American jobs, it could also divert millions of tons of coal fly ash from beneficial uses to surface impoundments like the one that broke open in Kingston, Tennessee—an outcome nobody wants.

I don't think H.R. 2273 is a perfect bill. And, to be clear, I support strong regulations for the disposal and storage of coal ash. But, these regulations can and should be completed without jeopardizing the recycling and reuse of fly ash.

I am supporting Rep. MCKINLEY's motion to instruct because it would move the conversation forward on how to find a reasonable and responsible balance between protecting communities and our environment, while also incentivizing the recycling and reuse of coal ash—goals we can all support.

It is my understanding that my colleagues on the conference are making progress in finding that balance. Meaningful conversations that began more than six months ago between key stakeholders are beginning to bear some fruit on this issue.

We shouldn't ignore this issue—it's too important. We shouldn't wait for an undefined period of time before strong rules are put in place. We shouldn't discourage recycling and reuse of coal ash by unnecessarily labeling it as "hazardous waste."

Let's pass this motion and get back to work on a long-term bill.

U.S. SHOULD REMAIN OPTIMISTIC
FOR POLITICAL RECONCILIATION
IN THAILAND

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the events over the past six years in Thailand have left the country deeply divided. A military coup

overthrew an elected government in 2006. Violent protests demanding new elections in 2010 led to the deaths of at least 90 people. Rich and poor, military and civilian, politician and voter—all have had differences over the years.

But, the newly elected party of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra promised to bridge those divides and lead Thailand towards a more stable and democratic future. For this country to move forward towards a more free and fair society, its leaders must push for political reconciliation between differing parties despite any opposition it may face today. The Thailand legislature is currently working its way through a political reconciliation bill. As it continues this process, the United States should be encouraged and hopeful in our ally's path to democracy and reconciliation. And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCING THE "SYRIA NON-
INTERVENTION ACT OF 2012"

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Administration is marching toward another war in the Middle East, this time against Syria. As with the president's war against Libya, Congress has been frozen out of the process. The Constitution, which grants Congress and only Congress the authority to declare war, is once again being completely ignored.

The push for a U.S. attack on Syria makes no sense, is not in our interest, and will likely make matters worse. Yet the Administration, after transferring equipment to the Syrian rebels and facilitating the shipment of weapons from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, has indicated that its plans for an actual invasion are complete.

This week there are even press reports that the Central Intelligence Agency is distributing assault rifles, anti-tank rocket launchers, and other ammunition to the Syrian opposition. These are acts of war by the United States government. But where is the authority for the president to commit acts of war against Syria? There is no authority. The president is acting on his own.

Today we are introducing legislation to prevent the administration from accelerating its plan to overthrow the Syrian government by assisting rebel forces that even the administration admits include violent Islamic extremists.

The bill is simple. It states that absent a Congressional declaration of war on Syria:

"No funds available to the Department of Defense or an element of the intelligence community may be obligated or expended for the purpose or which would have the effect of supporting, directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations in Syria by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual."

This legislation is modeled after the famous Boland Amendments of the early 1980s that were designed to limit the president's assistance to the Contras in their attempt to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. Congress has an obligation to exercise oversight of the president's foreign policy actions and to protect its constitutional prerogatives. This legislation will achieve both important functions.