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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BUERKLE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 12, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANN MARIE BUERKLE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CREDIT UNIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. In meeting with hundreds of constituents and dozens of small business this summer, one theme emerges repeatedly: The price that American families and small business continue to pay for the near collapse of our economy.

Earlier this year, new examples emerged of manipulation that was harmful, and in some cases potentially illegal, by Wall Street in New York and Fleet Street in London. Financial interests continue their assault on even modest reforms in the Dodd-Frank financial legislation protections for consumers and for the financial system itself. Now, clearly, the elements are a little overly complex and not perfect, but, in part, that's the result of aggressive action from the industry itself assaulting the regulatory process.

On the campaign trail, Governor Romney and his running mate argue for less protection and a return to largely self-regulation of banks that nearly brought the global economy to its knees.

At the same time, the Republican Party's response to the challenges of the mountain of student debt is first to reduce the funding for Pell Grants that help make college more affordable for low-income students, and then they would help fewer student borrowers but help more bankers by giving the lending business back to the private sector—backed by a government guarantee, by the way. Hardly a free-market solution.

Governor Romney famously pointed out that if this doesn't work for you, you can always borrow from your parents. I think most people, not just Republicans or Democrats, Independents, believe that's not the solution. It's more of the problem, even for those students who have parents that could finance them.

There are things that we can do. We should, of course, fight to protect the reforms and the restraints on Wall Street and protect direct, lower-cost lending to college students, but we also might inject a little more competition into the financial marketplace.

Now, for millions of Americans, a little competition to the big banks comes from credit unions who are more on the scale of a community bank. Most are small to medium-sized, very local, and nonprofit, with a volunteer, membership board of directors.

That nonprofit status is important. They not only don't pay taxes; they're not paying dividends to stockholders or multimillion dollar bonuses to CEOs. They use that advantage to lower costs and improve service.

Credit unions are currently prohibited from lending more than 12.25 percent of their assets to business. Now legislation has been proposed to raise this lending cap to a little more than a quarter of the assets. That would be ideal for small business lending.

It wasn't the credit unions on Main Street that almost brought the economy to its knees; it was Wall Street gamblers and, too often, cheaters in the financial sector. They were skirting the law and, in some cases, breaking it. Maybe it's time that we give small businesses a boost by giving commercial banks a little competition.

I hope my colleagues will not just sponsor H.R. 1418, the Small Business Lending Enhancement Act of 2011, but also be an advocate. It will be a strong signal that we truly want competition in the financial arena, that actions have consequences, and small and emerging businesses are our priority. Let's give small business more choices for financing they need, and let's help credit unions get more capacity to meet that need.

ATTACKED AGAIN ON 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday was the 11th anniversary of the attack on America from 9/11 in 2001 where Americans were killed, and it was an act of terrorism. Yesterday Americans were attacked again in two attacks, in Egypt and in Libya, apparently terrorists attacking us again on 9/11.

The Embassy in Egypt was stormed, the American flag was brought down,

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and a black flag was raised by those that stormed the compound. In Libya, the consulate was attacked, set afire, and our Ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens, was murdered and apparently, according to the BBC, his body was carried through the streets of Benghazi.

Both of these places are U.S. sovereign soil, the consulate and the Embassy. The groups or individuals that committed these acts must be found. There's no evidence yet that there was any act by either one of these two governments but by individuals or even by groups.

In Libya, al Qaeda cousins, as I call them, the Ansar al-Sharia, claims responsibility for the murder of our U.S. Ambassador. It's no coincidence that these two attacks occurred nearly at the same time, and they both occurred on the anniversary of September 11.

Immediately, the attackers blamed a movie that was produced as the reason, an excuse and justification for murdering. It's never the fault of a movie; it's never the fault of the United States; it's never the fault of western culture that people are murdered in the name of religion. It's the responsibility and it's the fault, of individuals. The people that need to be held accountable are the ones who committed these specific acts of terror against the United States.

In the past, the United States has always held and went after those that were responsible for this type of conduct. In 1998, when the Kenyan Embassy was attacked and Americans were killed, we responded. Of course we responded in 9/11. We responded after the first World Trade Center bombing. In 1996, when 19 American soldiers were murdered in Saudi Arabia, we responded. In fact, President Bill Clinton said this:

> The cowards who committed this murderous act must not go unpunished. We will not rest in our efforts to find who is responsible for this outrage, to pursue them and to punish them.

After 9/11, President Bush made this comment:

> The search is under way for those who are behind these evil acts. I've directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and bring them to justice.

Madam Speaker, the United States must always respond to terrorists, and we must let them be reminded again and again we will respond in an appropriate manner as we did on 9/11. We must respond today, and we must respond tomorrow. I am encouraged that the President will soon address the Nation on what our response will be.

We must hold those responsible personally accountable because we must let people understand that they need to leave us alone. That is what that message needs to be. We must have justice in these terrorist attacks by these individuals against Americans because, Madam Speaker, justice is what we do in America.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING PETALUMA NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the Little League 12-year-old All-Stars from my hometown of Petaluma, California. I salute them for their amazing run in the 2012 Little League World Series. I couldn't be prouder of the way they represented our community and themselves.

□ 1010

Even though they fell short of the championship, they distinguished themselves as one of this year's best youth baseball teams, finishing second in the country and third in the world. Even in their final loss to Tennessee, they showed fierce determination, rallying for a 10-run comeback to force extra innings. Each and every player contributed to the effort.

Bradley Smith led the way with an astounding .636 batting average, a tournament-leading 14 hits, a record-breaking 6 doubles, and 11 RBIs, as well as great fielding and pitching. Hance Smith hit .429, leading the team with 4 home runs and knocking more home runs—12—than any other player in the tournament. Daniel ''Danny'' Marzo hit .348 with a walk-off home run against New Jersey, on top of his outstanding pitching. Cole Tomei batted .333 with clutch hitting and dazzling third-base defense that actually reminded many of Brooks Robinson.

Logan Douglas, who provided great all-around leadership and topnotch relief pitching, also had a .318 batting average, and his 11 runs scored were the second-highest in the tournament. Catchers Austin Paretti and James O'Hanlon provided perfect handling of the pitching staff, with James ''Jay-O'' contributing timely hits and Austin adding eight runs scored in only eight at-bats.

Dylan Moore, Blake Buhrer, and Kempton Brandis all contributed clutch performances, including Kempton's two home runs against Tennessee, Blake's big hit to spark a rally against New Jersey, and Dylan's overall solid work in the field, on the mound, and at bat. Porter Slate scored eight runs out of the leadoff spot while playing stellar defense at second base. Quinton Gago's home run against the Southwest would still be going if it hadn't hit the side of a hill. And his dominant pitching performance against Texas gave the team a huge lift. Andrew White provided outstanding relief pitching, not just in the Little League World Series, but throughout district 35 and regional play.

Madam Speaker, not enough can be said about the coaching staff: Manager Eric Smith, Trevor Tomei, and Mike Slate. Their commitment to the team and to the families was nothing short of remarkable. They just didn't teach the boys skills and fundamentals; they instilled in them poise, determination, and drive.

The Petaluma National League All-Stars are talented ballplayers, but they also succeeded because of grit, hustle, and desire. They revealed themselves to be young men of maturity and strong character. They demonstrated sportsmanship in victory and in defeat. They were models of teamwork and discipline, qualities that will serve them well throughout their lives. These boys exemplify what is best about youth sports, being true to the mission and values of Little League baseball. Their performance on and off the field is a testament to their coaches, their parents, their teachers, and their individual character. These boys are unquestionably champions. They are tomorrow's leaders, and they give confidence for our country's future.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Yesterday was a remembrance of a tragedy beyond belief that happened to America on 9/11. There's another tragedy taking place, but it happens to be in Afghanistan. The tragedy is our young men and women are going there to give their life for a corrupt leader and a policy that will never change Afghanistan.

During the August break I had the privilege, like most Members of Congress, to be in my district to speak to numerous civic clubs. Two of the clubs I spoke to were retired military groups, one being the American Legion. Every time I talked about the failed policy in Afghanistan and the need to bring our troops home, I got applause. And I'm not a great speaker. But our military has done everything that it can do.

Three marines from my district at Camp Lejeune were in Afghanistan training Afghans to be policemen, and one of the trainees turned around and shot and killed three marines. This isn't the first time it's happened, and it's not the first time that I've lost marines from the Third District of North Carolina. But the person they were training was an Afghan officer in the police force. It is an absolutely unwinnable situation. The purpose that the former President, Mr. Bush, said we're going to Afghanistan for is to get bin Laden. Well, he's dead. To disperse al Qaeda. It is dispersed.

On the 20th, which is next Thursday, we're going to hold a bipartisan news conference with the author of a book called ''Funding the Enemy,'' by Douglas Wissing, who spent a number of years embedded with our military in Afghanistan. He has seen the tragedy of the money going to Afghanistan ending up in the coffers of the Taliban to

buy weapons to kill our young men and women.

If I could advise Mr. Romney and Mr. Obama, I would say: Listen to the American people on our policy in Afghanistan, because the American people want our troops home. I hear both sides complaining about the debt, the cliffs, sequestration, and all these things. And yet we're spending $10 billion a month in Afghanistan. And, as ''Funding the Enemy'' says, we can't even account for most of it. Yet we're going to cut programs here for children and senior citizens. But no, we don't even debate Afghanistan on the floor of the House. That is the tragedy.

Just a few of us on both sides have been speaking out constantly on the failed policy in Afghanistan. The former commandant who has been my adviser for 3 years—I'm not at liberty to say his name for the RECORD—he has said to me:

> What do we say to the mother, the father, the wife of the last marine or soldier killed to support a corrupt government and a corrupt leader in a war that cannot be won?

Congress needs to awaken to the fact that we need to bring our troops home in 2013—the spring of 2013 and not the end of 2014.

Madam Speaker, next week I will go to Walter Reed. I will visit the wounded from Afghanistan, some from Iraq. And I will leave with a heavy heart because I will see the broken bodies. I will see the young men and some women that have lost legs, other parts of their bodies, some paralyzed from the waist down, some with burned faces. And yet the Congress sleeps through this war. I ask my friend on both sides, when we get back in November, let's pass a resolution saying that we need to bring our troops home in 2013.

Madam Speaker, before closing, I've signed over 10,855 letters to families and extended families in America because of my weakness and my mistake on Iraq, a war that never had to be fought. Look at Iraq today. It's falling apart. It's time for us to stop trying to build empires and to rebuild America.

ISSUES FACING THIS CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, Republicans have pursued an obstructionist agenda since taking control of this body, cynically willing, seemingly, to risk even harm to our economy for political gain. The refusal of House Republicans to even consider compromise has resulted in the 112th Congress becoming among the least productive Congresses ever. The 112th Congress looks like a Potemkin Congress when it comes to measured productivity.

Consider the most simple, straightforward metric: the number of laws passed per Congress. The legislative output of this Congress, a mere 173 public laws passed, is a pittance when compared to the 900 public laws passed by what was called the do-nothing Congress of the Truman era, or the 333 public laws passed in an era of divided government in the 104th Congress.

□ 1020

Or consider one of our most fundamental constitutional responsibilities, funding the government. Once again, the 112th Congress distinguishes itself for sheer incompetence, having managed to pass zero appropriations bills. The 112th Congress looks even worse when directly compared to the Democratic-led 111th Congress, which boasted a productivity level on par with the legislative records during the era of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Lyndon Baines Johnson in the thirties and sixties, respectively.

The landmark legislation enacted in the 2-year period between 2009 and 2010, from the Recovery Act, the health reform bill, financial regulation, put the meager output of this current Congress to shame.

Further, beyond these big three, at least a dozen other important bills were passed during that time period, including legislation addressing fair pay, student loans, consumer protection, national service, stem cell research, and food safety.

The American people are tired of business as usual. They are tired of Congress waiting until the last possible moment to avert yet another disaster. They are certainly tired of this House returning from a 37-day summer vacation only to hold a couple of show votes this week before rushing Members out of town again next week, leaving in their wake a sea of critical work that remains undone.

Our country faces serious, daunting challenges that demand action now, which is why I advocated canceling the August recess.

The House now has an opportunity to take decisive action in the coming days on at least two major deadline issues facing Congress: passing a 5-year farm bill and enacting comprehensive postal reform.

Despite the 112th Congress being among the least productive and the most dysfunctional in history, the Senate, not known for its speed, has managed to engage in constructive cooperation and addresses both of these issues in an overwhelmingly bipartisan manner.

On two of the most urgent matters facing this Congress, the Senate has exposed the extreme intransigence of this House Republican majority. Two Republicans, a Democrat, and an Independent, developed the 21st Century Postal Service Act of 2012 which passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support.

On the vital 5-year reauthorization of the farm bill, the Senate again developed a reform bill, the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2012, and also passed it with a bipartisan supermajority.

Compromise is at the heart of these bipartisan measures, which are far from perfect and contain provisions I would oppose. However, both bills contain provisions vital to saving the postal service, safeguarding the health of Americans and the American agricultural industry, and providing a critical safety net for American families.

In my perfect world, we would pass my Reform the Postal Service for the 21st Century Act. And I'm sure in the House Republicans' perfect world, we'd pass their House Postal Reform Act of 2011. But in the real world, I do not believe either of our constituents sent us here to stubbornly fight for the partisan perfect at the expense of the American good.

If Republican leadership are willing to compromise on behalf of the American people, they will take up and pass the bipartisan bills, S. 1679 and S. 3240, this week or next. I realize I risk appearing naive for even proposing compromise by taking up and passing Senate bills. But my own experience with my predecessor in the 11th District of Virginia gives me hope.

As many of my colleagues are aware, even though former Congressman Tom Davis is a Republican and I'm a Democrat, we get together and we like to say that we belong to the same political party—the party of getting things done. We have roots in local government and that's the ethos of local government, and I appreciate his generosity in working with me in the transition to the 111th Congress.

I recall one extended transition meeting at a local Denny's. We were talking. There was a waitress that was going back and forth. We kind of thought she would recognize us, maybe want to say ''hello.'' In fact, she said, ''You need to move on. I need that table.''

That's where the American people are. They want us to move on and get our business done so they can get on with theirs.

FARM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NOEM. Madam Speaker, today, I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues something that is of utmost importance to this country and our food supply and to this Nation's farmers and ranchers. It is the importance of getting a farm bill done.

Growing up on a farm in South Dakota and then farming for years with my family, I certainly recognize how volatile the agriculture industry is. Our producers invest in seed and fertilizer, they put it in the dirt, and they hope that that fall that they have the opportunity to come back and harvest something that will provide for their family and provide food for this country and for this Nation.

The crops that are grown are relied upon to fulfill the need that we have in

this country and across the world. Farming's risky, but because growing our food is in the interest of our national security, we provide a safety net that keeps our farmers on the land in good times and in bad times.

As you can see from these maps that I have here with me today, we are suffering through one of those tough times right now. Farmers can't control Mother Nature. Our farmers are facing one of the worst droughts that we've seen in decades. You just have to talk to a veteran farmer today to say that they haven't seen an instance like this since probably the thirties where we had such widespread, long-standing drought that they are suffering through. It has a real impact on folks in rural America, and the rest of America relies on that food to feed their families.

I want my colleagues to get a picture of just how important the farm bill is to this country and to people in the real world. While it may be easy to ignore the drought if you're in Washington, D.C. or in other parts of the country, when I go home every weekend, and when I was home and traveling all across our State throughout August, it was everywhere around me.

Just yesterday I had the chance to sit down with a couple of producers from South Dakota. Brent and Barb were here from Houghton, South Dakota, and it was evident to me that when I visited with them that their concern was more for the next generation than for getting through a couple of tough days right now.

They spoke of their sons, the love they have for their land, and the responsibility that they feel in feeding this country and making sure that we have a future where the United States can grow its own food to provide for its own people.

They wrote me a letter about what the farm bill means to them, and I wanted to read part of that letter to you:

> I know you share our feelings on the importance of the bill. It is not only necessary to us now, but also for our three sons who want to continue our farming operation which has been in our family for four generations. We are so thankful and proud that they want to return to the farm and we want to do all we can to provide them with the same opportunities we have had. The crop insurance portion of the farm bill has truly helped us in the past as we have struggled with wet conditions over parts of the last 20 years. Because of excess moisture, there have been years when we farmed less than half of our total cropland. Now, the tables have turned and we are experiencing drought conditions in some areas of South Dakota and we will again be relying on crop insurance. It is so important to our family farming operation as a business. It has allowed us to stay in business through the tough years.
>
> The safety net this farm bill would provide is crucial to not only rural farmers like us, but our State and country as a whole.

Brent and Barb and other producers across America are in town this week. They were asking this House to take action on a farm bill to give them the certainty that they need to have confidence to plant next year's crop. It will support both rural America but also every single family that's out there buying groceries today.

Later this morning, I'm going to be joining them at a rally that's called the Farm Bill Now rally. And I'll be asking my colleagues to take action to pass a farm bill. We need to get that farm bill done to know what the policies are going to be in the next 5 years. It's right for our producers, it's right for our ranchers and farmers, it's right for this country, and for every family out there who's wanting to put food on the table that they can afford through these tough times.

□ 1030

LIBYA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, back in 2009, my good friend and the cochair of the House Democracy Partnership, DAVID PRICE of North Carolina, and I had the opportunity to visit former General—and at that time, U.S. Ambassador—Karl Eikenberry, Ambassador to Afghanistan.

We were at the Ambassador's residence in Kabul, and I was struck with a statement that was made by General Ambassador Eikenberry. He said we have a tendency, as Americans, to express appreciation to men and women in uniform, those men and women who served in our Nation's Armed Forces around the world, but too rarely do we extend our appreciation to the men and women who represent the United States of America in the Foreign Service as diplomats around the world, and General Eikenberry encouraged us to do that. And Mr. PRICE and I have consistently done that in the visits of the House Democracy Partnership to the 17 countries with which we've partnered over the past 7 years.

I have to say that 3 years later, just a few months ago, Mr. PRICE and I were leading a delegation to Afghanistan and we recounted that story to our great diplomat, Ryan Crocker, the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan. Ambassador Crocker, when we shared the story with him, reminded us that more U.S. Ambassadors have been killed since the Vietnam War than generals or admirals. We know that down at the Harry S. Truman Building, there is a plaque that lists the names of the 231 U.S. diplomats who have been killed since the first death in 1780. And, Madam Speaker, I have to say that the news that we have of the tragic death of Ambassador Chris Stevens in Benghazi, the U.S. consulate in Libya, is very sad news for all of us.

Now, the upheaval in the Arab world has brought about many great things. For the first time in millennia, there are individuals who have been able to participate in elections and make decisions. But then we get the sad and tragic news that Ambassador Stevens and, according to the early reports, two marines, maybe another Foreign Service officer, were killed in this tragic attack.

I would like to say that we have spent time there. We were just in Libya, Mr. PRICE and I, just a few weeks before Ambassador Stevens arrived, and Libya is a place that has held out great promise. I am determined, as I know Mr. PRICE is, to ensure that the promise that we saw several weeks ago in Libya will not be shattered by the tragic death of Ambassador Stevens.

Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to be joined by my dear friend and colleague, Mr. PRICE, and would like to yield to him at this point.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. DREIER and I have partnered for many years in the work of the House Democracy Partnership, which we and many others in this body believe in very deeply—that we need to be good colleagues, not just nationally, but internationally. And we need to reach out in ways that can strengthen democracy, strengthen representative institutions, in countries that are friends of our country. We can help encourage and strengthen those parliaments. That's exactly why we visited Libya back in the spring, a delegation led by Mr. DREIER. We were there a few weeks before Ambassador Stevens arrived.

We were struck by the promise of Libya. Of course they've had 42 years of dictatorial rule. The country has been liberated through the efforts of NATO allies. There are still major challenges—obviously, security challenges, as we are learning in a tragic way today—but the country is gradually being secured. Constituent assembly elections have been held and parliamentary elections are on the way. So we have great hope for Libya. We have been and we will be a friend to Libya in helping to realize the promise of the Arab Spring.

Our solemn purpose here today is to mark this tragic loss, the eighth Ambassador in U.S. history to be killed in the line of duty. Our personnel in Libya are dedicated personnel, the best that the U.S. has to offer. The work that they're doing there is challenging and dangerous. The work promotes our national interest and is very, very valuable to Libya and to us. This horrible tragedy is one that we want to mark in this House here today, as we honor the victims of this attack and those who continue to serve.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for his contribution.

Madam Speaker, if I may simply extend condolences to the loved ones of Ambassador Stevens and to say that we need to ensure that those who are responsible for this tragic death are brought to justice. And we need to do everything that we can to continue to encourage the development of the rule

of law, self-determination, political pluralism, and, as Mr. PRICE has just said, the development of democratic institutions around the world. It's a universal right, and the United States of America is the single best model for that.

So our thoughts and prayers, again, are with the loved ones of Ambassador Stevens.

WE FIDDLE WHILE THE FISCAL FIRES BURN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, first I want to, of course, associate myself with the remarks from Mr. DREIER and Mr. PRICE, who have done such terrific work on the spread of democracy, but also to lament the tragic loss of life and the courage displayed by our men and women in our Foreign Service who are deployed abroad to represent the United States, its democracy, and its principles.

Madam Speaker, I regretfully rise, however, to talk about another unhappy subject. Our fiscal house is burning, and in Washington we continue to play and fiddle. We have another 8, perhaps 13, days left, or less than that. I don't know whether we're going to be here in October, but I do know that we're going to be here for a very short time—this week, frankly, doing message bills.

The middle class tax cut which passed the Senate lays fallow somewhere, not brought to this floor, to assure that our middle class citizens would understand that they weren't going to get a tax increase on January 1, give them confidence, give our economy confidence, to help grow our economy.

We have not assured our doctors that the payments for Medicare services to patients will in fact be available. We have not taken substantive action to set aside the sequester with a balanced plan.

There will be a bill on sequester. That will be largely opposed on our side of the aisle because it does not provide for balance. It simply says set aside the sequester, which is the direct result of Republican policies. In fact, the Republicans have offered two bills on the floor which say that sequester is the option of choice if you don't meet certain numbers. They did that in their Cut, Cap and Balance bill, which was enforced how? Through sequestration.

We understand that sequestration is an irrational act. Why is it an irrational act? Because it is as if you have a food budget and a movie budget at home and you have tight finances that week, that month, that year. You don't cut your food budget exactly the same as you cut your movie budget. You say, We're going to forego a movie and make sure we have healthy food on the table. That's what we ought to do.

We ought to have a strategic way and a balanced way to get this deficit that is out of control and needs to be handled under control, and the best way to turn off the sequester is a balanced plan. But what we will see offered on this floor is not a balanced plan, but a plan which says, Do it our way or no way.

Now, very frankly, that's been the history of this Congress. I've served in 16 Congresses. This is the least productive Congress in which I've served. Now, that view is shared by two scholars, Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein, who wrote in a book and wrote in an op-ed:

> We've been studying Washington politics in Congress for more than 40 years and never have we seen them—meaning the Congress of the United States—as dysfunctional.

The American public share that view, of course, and our poll numbers reflect it; properly so.

Mr. Mann and Mr. Ornstein go on:

> In our past writings, we have criticized both parties when we believed it was warranted. Today, however, we have no choice but to acknowledge that the core of the problem lies with the Republican Party.

They went on to say:

> The GOP has become an insurgent outlier in American politics. It is ideologically extreme, scornful of compromise, unmoved by conventional understanding of facts, evidence, and science, and dismissive of the legitimacy of the political opposition and, therefore, unwilling to compromise.

That's what our gridlock is caused by, an unwillingness to compromise.

The Senate has passed a farm bill. The Senate has passed a farm bill which would help farmers threatened by drought. As a matter of fact, their own committee has reported out a farm bill, but that farm bill has not been brought to the floor because, apparently, the majority of Republicans aren't for a farm bill. So even their own bill is not brought to the floor, much less a bipartisan-passed farm bill in the United States Senate which could be passed and would get a significant number of Democratic votes—not because we believe it's exactly what we want, but because we believe it is a compromise that will work for America and America's farmers.

□ 1040

Ladies and gentlemen, Madam Speaker, the American public ought to know that in the next few days we're not going to be doing much of anything; not on jobs for Americans, not on the fiscal cliff that confronts us, not on farm bills, not on the Violence Against Women Act, which also passed the United States Senate in a bipartisan, overwhelming fashion. No, we fiddle. We fiddle while the fiscal fires burn.

I would urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, my Democratic colleagues and my Republican colleagues—I don't think we're going to get anything done before November 6. I think it's going to be politics, politics as usual. The American public and America will suffer for that. But I think that's what's going to happen.

But I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and Madam Speaker, I would urge the American people to demand of us that we not perceive the lame duck session as simply a time to further fiddle. It ought to be a time, my colleagues, when we act, we come together, we adopt a balanced, fair plan to get the fiscal house of America in order, to put ourselves on a fiscally sustainable path that is credible, that people believe in, so that the rating agencies, which are now talking about perhaps downgrading the United States of America, the most creditworthy Nation on Earth—why? Not because we don't have the resources to solve our fiscal problems but because they do not perceive that we have the political will and willingness to do so or the courage.

My colleagues, Americans expect more of us. We ought to expect more of ourselves. We have an obligation, a responsibility. We swore an oath to protect and defend not only the Constitution but the welfare of this country.

Putting our country on a fiscally sustainable path is absolutely essential. I don't think we're going to do it before November 6, but I would hope every one of us, every one of us who comes back here the second week in November, or the end of the second week of November, will pledge ourselves to work together, as Americans, not as Democrats, not as Republicans, not as conservatives, not as liberals or moderates, but as Americans, understanding that the only way every commission that's reported has said we're going to get our house in order is to come together and do so in a balanced way.

And yes, ladies and gentlemen, that means making sure that we deal with revenues. We pay for what we buy. That's what revenues are about. We pay for what we buy. And then we deal with the spiraling cost of health care. Everybody's talked about that. We have to do it. President Clinton talked about that. PAUL RYAN talks about that. We have to do it.

But we can keep the guarantee of Medicare, we can keep the guarantee of Social Security in the process, while getting our fiscal house in order on the entitlement side.

Ladies and gentlemen of this House, we owe it to the American people. The American people expect us to act responsibly. We are fiddling while the fiscal house of America burns.

Let us summon the courage, the judgment, and the personal responsibility each one of us has, that when we return here after the election and, hopefully, the politics are behind us, those 30-second, 60-second ads which misinterpret, misinform, and dissemble are behind us, and we say to all of our citizens who we represent, we are prepared to exercise the courage and judgment to put our country on a fiscally sustainable path that is credible. Not only will rating agencies believe in it, our citizens will believe in it, our businesses will believe in it, and the international community will as well.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NEIL ARMSTRONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Neil Armstrong, a space pioneer who profoundly influenced world history.

I can still remember wearing my most prized possession, a blue Fly Me to the Moon T-shirt with the Apollo 11 mission insignia on it. I remember the feeling of seeing those grainy images of Neil on the Sea of Tranquility and, as he put his left foot down on lunar soil, his famous ''One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.''

That historical moment changed America forever, and the world changed with us. And Neil Armstrong's quiet heroism helped catapult America to be the global leader. His legacy of American exceptionalism inspired generations of young people to take up science and space exploration.

In the 43 years since his Moon mission, Armstrong believed deeply that America should continue to explore new worlds. Upon learning the Obama administration had canceled NASA's plans to return to the Moon, Neil Armstrong, a very private man, became a vocal critic of this failure and the willingness to allow other nations to surpass America's space leadership. The state of NASA's human space exploration plans, he told Congress last fall, is ''lamentably embarrassing and unacceptable.''

One of the highlights of my life will always be shaking the hand of my childhood hero. Neil and I were united in our opposition to President Obama's plan to cancel the Constellation program and diminish the priority of human spaceflight in his 2010 budget and National Space Policy documents.

It was humbling to work with Mr. Armstrong and several other Apollo astronauts like Gene Cernan and Jim Lovell to fight to restore a strong NASA budget and develop a comprehensive human space exploration program worthy of America's greatness as explorers.

America needs a clear and purposeful mission worthy of our Nation's continued investment to regain our leading role and remain the dominant human space country in the world.

Our Nation suffers a great loss with Neil Armstrong's passing, but his courage and commitment to greatness live on in the next generation of explorers to come.

For the rest of my time on this planet, I will continue to honor his contributions to American exceptionalism and his legacy by pushing for a strong human space exploration program that will take America to the Moon, to Mars, and beyond.

My thoughts and prayers are with Neil Armstrong's family and the entire NASA family as we cope with this tremendous loss. America mourns with you as we remember Neil's amazing journey.

Neil's philosophy about life is captured best by advice given by one of Neil's Moon-walking brothers, Gene Cernan, when he spoke to a group of students at Sartartia Middle School in my hometown of Sugar Land, Texas. Gene told the kids, ''Always shoot for the Moon, because if you miss, you'll see the stars.''

Neil Armstrong gave us the Moon so we can look to the heavens and see the stars. Thank you, Neil.

God bless.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNNELEE. Madam Speaker, this week, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption is recognizing the individuals and families from around the country who've enriched the lives of children through foster care and adoption. I rise this morning to share the story of a couple who have dedicated their lives to providing not just a home for children, but a family.

Pat and Sandra Nunnelee, from Tupelo, Mississippi, had lived the American Dream. They married in their teens, and over the next 14 years had four children born into their family. When they married, Pat was working in a low-paying manufacturing job.

□ 1050

But he soon entered the profession of life insurance sales. He possessed a good personality and a strong work ethic. Because of that, he was a natural for the business, and his career advanced quickly both in income and in prestige.

Sandra had a love of infants and a desire to be a nurse. However, she decided to forgo her nursing education and her career in order to get married and then raise a family. Later, she did enter into nursing school. In fact, she graduated from nursing school the same year her oldest child graduated from high school.

By 1980, they were in their mid-forties, and they were enjoying the fruits of their labors together. Pat had become vice president of one of the largest life insurance companies in his State. Sandra was enjoying the love of her life—taking care of newborn babies as an intensive care nurse. They were enjoying a standard of living that neither of them had ever thought possible. In addition, empty nest was in sight. Two of their children were in college, and two others weren't far behind. In short, life was good. They'd worked hard, and they were nearing a stage of life when they could really begin to enjoy it.

But any plans they may have made changed in November of 1980 when a little girl was born prematurely. That month, while America was preparing to celebrate Thanksgiving, we were watching the peaceful transition of power begin in the White House, and we were watching an international hostage crisis. So, when the world is watching Presidents and Ayatollahs, who cares when a little premature girl is born? Thank God somebody did.

This little girl was born with numerous health problems, and the pediatrician's quick diagnosis was that this infant wouldn't live through the night and that medical staff should make her short time on Earth as peaceful as possible. At the conclusion of the shift, Sandra left her patient with the belief that this little girl would not be alive when she got back to work the next morning.

Much to her surprise, when she arrived the next morning for work, the little girl was still alive. She'd proven to have a strong will to live, but she'd been abandoned by her parents. So, after 3 months in the intensive care unit, her pediatrician observed to Sandra one day, We've done miracles for this child, but the one thing we've not been able to give her is a home. She has never had anyone to hold her, to rock her, or to sing to her. Over the next few days, Pat and Sandra became foster parents. She left her job, and the child entered their home.

Child number five.

Three years later, Sunday lunch was interrupted by a desperate knock at the door. Sandra had taken a leave of absence from her job to take care of this little girl, and she volunteered to offer child care to a single mom from the hospital where she worked. That young woman was having a great deal of difficulty coping with the many demands of being a single mom.

She desperately asked, Ms. Nunnelee, would you please take my baby.

Thinking there must be some kind of temporary crisis, the Nunnelees replied, Yes, we'll be glad to take care of your child for a couple of days.

The young mom responded, I don't want you to take him for a couple of days. I want you to take him forever.

Child number six.

Four years after that was another desperate contact, this one a phone call from the County Department of Human Services. An infant boy had been born with very severe heart problems. The doctor's prognosis was that he wouldn't live beyond age 10 or 12. His parents didn't want to keep such a sick child. There were no available foster parents with the medical expertise or the willingness to adopt such a child in that condition.

The desperate social worker said, You've done more than any family should be asked to do, but there is nobody else.

Child number seven.

That child has lived more than a decade beyond the doctor's initial prognosis, and while he still has some health problems, he has recently completed school, and he has moved out on his own. For the first time in 54 years, Pat and Sandra Nunnelee don't have a child in their home. Oh, holidays,

though, are filled with the noise of seven children and their spouses and several grandchildren.

In recounting their decision to commit to raising a second set of children at a time in their lives when their peers would be enjoying life, Pat loves to tell the story of a little boy on the beach. It seems a storm had washed several thousand starfish ashore, and as the tide receded, the stranded starfish were dying in the glaring sun. One by one, a boy began to hurl starfish back into the ocean. A cynical man observed his actions and commented on the futility of such efforts in light of the enormity of the problem.

You are wasting your time. You can never make a difference with so many starfish.

The boy simply hurled another into the sea and replied, I made a difference for that one.

These are true American heroes. Their grandchildren call them Mimi and Pat-daddy. Their friends call them Pat and Sandra. My six brothers and sisters and I are proud to call them Mom and Dad.

THE STORMING OF OUR EMBASSIES: AN ATTACK AGAINST AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, last year, an intense debate was under way in Congress as to how to respond to the turmoil in Libya. The imminent slaughter of the people of Benghazi by former dictator Qadhafi led the United States to sustain a NATO-led coalition to stop the bloodshed. Now our Ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens, is dead—killed by the very people we went there to save. Americans can tolerate ingratitude; Americans can tolerate insult, but Americans cannot tolerate the senseless killings of the official representative of our country and three other diplomatic personnel.

The governing structures of Libya must respond in the strongest way. They should publicly state their condemnation and commitment to restoring order. Democracy is not an election. It is the understanding of the protection of the inherent dignity and rights of each person supported by the structures that bring about the just rule of law.

We honor Ambassador Stevens, Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith, and two others whose names I do not yet have for their heroic service. May they rest in peace.

Similarly, in Cairo, Egypt, the storming of our Embassy represents an attack on America. By the norms of international law, custom and tradition, the scaling of the walls of our Embassy severely threatens America's longstanding relationship with Egypt so fruitfully solidified after the peace accords in the Middle East in the 1970s.

President Morsi must decide: Will his government tolerate chaos and violence? Will he abandon Egypt's leading role as a force for stability in the Middle East? Will he use democracy for the consolidation of power while rejecting its central tenets?

The responsibility of President Morsi's is also to speak swiftly and state clearly that the Egyptian Government, duly elected, is committed to its international responsibilities and the deeper responsibilities of self-government.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Matthew Mello, the Church of the Resurrection, Lakeland, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask for Your blessings to this legislative body as they govern the welfare of all the people of this great Nation. Endow them with wisdom, discernment, courage, and conviction to engage the issues of our day, and for the generations to come to be better off as a result of all decisions made within this assembly hall.

Bind them together in a shared commitment to You, a passionate patriotism, and a deep dedication to find creative solutions in the concerns that confront us and divide us in these times.

We remember our Ambassador, Christopher Stevens, and his colleagues.

We ask that this be done this day and in the days to come, giving honor and glory to You, our God, and we pray Your blessings be upon us always.

In Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. ELLISON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING REVEREND MATTHEW MELLO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a brief moment to say thank you to today's chaplain. I would also like to thank the Speaker for making this possible.

The invocation today was offered by Father Matthew Mello of Resurrection Catholic Church in my hometown of Lakeland, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, in 1963, my mother and father helped found the church Father Mello calls home. And like my parents and most Floridians, Father Mello is a geographic mutt: born in New Jersey, attended grade school in Puerto Rico, went to high school in Florida, attended seminary in Indiana, and studied theology in Chicago.

We don't know if he's a Yankees fan, a Cubs fan, or a White Sox fan. But one thing's for certain: since 1998, Father Mello has been a constant and reassuring presence in the spiritual life of countless residents of my hometown and to my family. His presence in my dad's final year of life was a comfort to him as well as to my family.

Father Mello personifies Christ's instruction to us to be the ''servant of all.'' I firmly believe, as the Bible also says, ''that the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.'' Knowing Father Mello, I have no doubt that today's prayer was heard on high.

I thank him for his prayer today and his lifetime of service.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RELEASE OF PASTOR YOUCEF NADARKHANI

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani has been released from prison in Iran. After 3 years of suffering in prison, with the death penalty hanging over his head on false charges, Pastor Youcef is now home with his family. This weekend he was suddenly brought before a court, convicted on a more minor sentence, and granted time served.

While we applaud his release, we cannot forget how Pastor Youcef was abused and falsely accused over the past 3 years. He was subject to intense interrogation. His wife was arrested, taken away from their two young sons for a period of time. His lawyer was arrested on trumped-up charges.

Earlier this year the House drew attention to this persecution when it overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling for the immediate release of Pastor Youcef. We made it clear that the world was watching and would not tolerate the execution of an innocent man.

The Government of Iran continues to abuse religious minorities within its borders: Jews, Sunni Muslims, Baha'is, as well as Christians. Pastor Youcef's release is a victory for human rights, but we cannot forget about the other victims of this corrupt regime.

WIND POWER IS AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, wind power is an American success story. It is one of our fastest growing manufacturing sectors, with over 500 American-based facilities. It provides us with clean, renewable energy that both consumers and the environment demand.

But, unfortunately, it is threatened with the production tax credit due to expire at the end of the year. I am pleased to join with my fellow Ways and Means Committee member, DAVE REICHERT, from the Northwest, as cosponsor of H.R. 3307, to extend the tax credit so that we don't lose as many as 37,000 jobs to the uncertainty.

Congress shouldn't wait until the end of the year because people need to make investment decisions now. Until we enact a comprehensive energy plan for this century, the production tax credit is key to our energy future: clean, dependable, very low operating cost wind energy.

Please join us as we work to guarantee this production tax credit for our economy and our energy security.

AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

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

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, in Egypt our Embassy walls were scaled and the American flag ripped apart. In Libya, America's Ambassador and three other Americans were brutally murdered.

Ironically, our own Embassy in Egypt apologized by condemning Americans who exercised their religious and free speech rights as ''misguided individuals who hurt the religious feelings of Muslims.'' The White House, rivaling the Keystone Cops of lore, distanced itself from its own State Department apology.

Let's be clear. In Libya, this White House spent American treasury and risked American lives to topple Muammar Qadhafi, thus empowering those who killed our Ambassador.

Not one to learn from history or its own mistakes, this White House says, America ''will work to support a Syrian opposition to hasten the day when Assad falls.''

Mr. Speaker, we must stop spending our treasury and risking American lives for those who neither appreciate our sacrifices nor believe in basic liberties like freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

Mr. Speaker, I pray the President is listening.

EXTENSION OF THE PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I too rise to promote the extension of the production tax credit. Thousands of jobs in Colorado and across the Nation are dependent upon this incentive for good, clean energy here in the United States, thousands of manufacturing jobs made right here, wind production right here in America.

In Colorado, we have substantial manufacturing plants with Vestis; we have vendors who supply these particular manufacturers for this good clean energy. Yet we have the production tax credit that's about to expire.

Bipartisan support is in Colorado where we have virtually every Member, Democrats and Republicans, as well as you heard Mr. BLUMENAUER say he has a Republican cosponsor for this. But the Republican leadership will not bring it up, and it's been removed from the platform of the Republican Party.

These are good jobs in America. It's clean energy for our country. It's good for national security. If we make these things, these big windmills in America, we will make it in America.

□ 1210

LIBYA

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, this is a tragic day for the United States and for all people across the world who stand for freedom—the freedom of speech and religious tolerance. It is also a day that serves as a powerful reminder of why we hold these core principles, of why each generation of Americans over the past two centuries has proudly fought to preserve and advance them, and of why we must confidently answer the call to do the same today.

My thoughts and prayers are with Ambassador Stevens' family and with the families of the three American diplomats murdered in the attack in Libya.

There is simply no excuse or rationale to be found here. There is absolutely no justification for violence and murder against Americans. This act of terror stands in direct opposition to the freedom and liberty that we champion throughout the world.

This is an extraordinarily volatile time in the Middle East. As Americans, we should expect—we should demand—nothing less than strong leadership from the United States. As is shown by the murder of American officials in Libya today, by the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Egypt yesterday and, most certainly, by Iran's flagrant march toward nuclear weapons, this is no game. I am sickened and outraged by these recent events. It is time to lead.

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT FOR RETURNING VETERANS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I will join Members of Congress MIKE QUIGLEY and PAT MEEHAN in an ice hockey game with and to benefit the wounded warriors. The Wounded Warriors is a great organization that takes care of our returning injured soldiers. Congress, however, is not living up to its responsibility to do the same.

The unemployment rate for returning veterans under the age of 24 is 29 percent. Congress just approved $53 billion for road and bridge repair next year—a very weak response to a big and important issue, particularly when you consider that we just spent $90 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Afghanistan.

If you really want to say ''thank you'' to the veterans on behalf of a grateful Nation, let's nation-build at home and put our veterans to work in rebuilding the America they so honorably defended.

OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL DESERVE A FAIR MILITARY VOTING PROCESS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, both at home and abroad, the brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces dedicate their lives to protecting this great Nation. Access to absentee voter registration within our military's ranks has been increasingly difficult due to changing residencies and overseas deployments. In order to make voting for our servicemembers more accessible, Congress passed the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act. Unfortunately, the administration has failed in its implementation.

On Thursday, the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel will hold a hearing to investigate these issues in an effort to determine why the Department of Defense has failed to properly implement the legislation. As chairman of the subcommittee, I look forward to hearing witnesses explain and ensure that those serving in our Armed Forces are given the best available access to voter registration. Every reasonable effort should be made to enable a servicemember's ability to vote.

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

Our sympathies to the families of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and our Foreign Service officers in Libya and Egypt.

ATTACKS ON OUR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN LIBYA AND EGYPT

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disturbed by the attacks on our diplomatic missions in Libya and Egypt. Four Americans have now been killed, including U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens. These Americans served bravely and with distinction, and this is a terrible, terrible tragedy. I have seen this amateurish and stupid video, and there is nothing in it, despite the fact that it is deliberately provocative, that could ever justify the murders of these innocent people.

The fact is this must be condemned in the strongest terms. These individuals who didn't like this video—and there is much to dislike about it—could have peacefully protested or could have written letters. They could have registered their disapproval in a number of ways, but they resorted to murder. This is morally objectionable, and the whole world must condemn it. Of course, it doesn't help to provoke people even if you have the right to do so, but it is always wrong to respond with violence and mayhem.

VOICE OF TEXAS, KELLY FROM CROSBY, TEXAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texans have shared with me their stories about the businesses that they have built without the help of the Federal Government.

Kelly from Crosby, Texas, wrote me this:

> Congressman, you are correct that small business owners carry the full load of government taxes.
>
> On average, our small $3 million-a-year business pays 35 percent in Federal taxes, pays Social Security of 7.45 percent, Federal unemployment tax, State franchise tax, school district and real estate property taxes, and I am taxed on the computer used to send this email to you. And the President says I didn't build it? I beg to differ. During the first 3 years, my workweek was 80 hours a week. If the Federal Government's debt of $16 trillion is not brought under control, it will not matter how hard I work, because the dollar's value will be worthless.
>
> Federal Government, fix your spending problem, and put your House in order because small business is watching and thinking, If I ran my business like you run yours, the bank would foreclose.

Mr. Speaker, Kelly is correct. Big Government hasn't built America. American small business owners have built it—on their own.

And that's just the way it is.

THE WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition to talk about a critical issue for Massachusetts and our Nation: the wind protection tax credit.

Providing a modest credit of 2.2 cents per kilowatt hour generated, it has encouraged over $75 billion in private investment over the last 5 years. Now 60 percent of the average turbine is manufactured here in the United States. These companies hire a diversity of workers and provide good-paying jobs in a rapidly growing sector of our economy.

Bay Stater Nigel Greene worked for GE Wind as a wind farm parts runner. He says:

> I can tell you honestly that nothing gave me more pride in my country than seeing a turbine go from ''in-repair'' status back to ''on-line'' and producing clean, renewable power. It is truly a sight to behold.

Last year alone, clean energy jobs in Massachusetts grew 11 percent. If it is allowed to expire, we will lose an important new manufacturing opportunity and too many good-paying American jobs.

IMPLEMENTING THE JOBS ACT

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

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, during our recess this past month, we held a small business roundtable in our Hudson Valley. Actually, everybody sat, transfixed—all the participants—for an hour and a half while talking about what our small businesses need to do and what we need to do to help our small businesses. One of the key considerations was to ease the climate for creating jobs and growing our businesses.

I am so proud to have supported the JOBS Act with our Democratic and Republican colleagues and with the Senate. It was signed into law, as we all know, in March by the President. Tomorrow, in the Financial Services Committee, we begin to review the implementation of the JOBS Act, and I hope that we can continue to work together to make true progress in growing our small businesses and in helping them by making sure that the path is clear for them to grow and thrive and prosper. This is a great example of how both parties can work together to achieve that goal.

EXTENDING THE PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, last month, our Nation reached a significant milestone in the growth of homegrown renewable energy. The United States surpassed 50 gigawatts of installed wind power capacity, which is enough to power over 13 million American households a year. This is a major accomplishment for an industry predicted to deliver only a quarter of that amount a decade ago.

We should be celebrating this success brought about by innovation, hard work, and smart policies. Sadly, the celebration may be a short one if Congress doesn't act swiftly to continue the bipartisan production tax credit, which is a key factor in wind power's expansion. My constituents who work at companies like Clipper Windpower and Infinity Wind Power have told me that letting the PTC lapse would devastate their industry and eliminate thousands of jobs.

It's time to give these companies certainty by taking up a multiyear extension of the PTC without delay. Our country cannot afford to pull the rug out from under a true American success story. Let's renew the production tax credit now and maintain our leadership in transitioning to cleaner, safer sources of energy.

□ 1220

ATTACK ON U.S. CONSULATE

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, just 1 day after the 11th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States of America, sadly the American flag flies at half staff today at the U.S. Capitol once again following the senseless and tragic attack against our U.S. consulate in Libya, which left four patriotic Embassy workers laying dead.

Among those murdered include American Ambassador Christopher Stevens, marking one of the rare moments in U.S. history where a U.S. Ambassador is killed representing our Nation abroad. This type of cowardly and brutal attack is an outrage, and those responsible should be swiftly brought to justice.

The service of Ambassador Stevens and three other embassy staff will not be forgotten as their service represents everything that our country stands for in promoting peace and democracy and liberty for all peoples across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, God bless the brave men and women who serve our country everywhere, and God bless the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF DELAWARE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE BOB GILLIGAN

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delaware Speaker of the House Bob Gilligan.

In November, Speaker Gilligan will conclude a 40-year career as a member of Delaware's house of representatives, making him the longest-serving member in State history.

Throughout his career, Speaker Gilligan has been one of the most effective leaders in Delaware State government. Speaker Gilligan has been a trusted and compassionate leader during times when Delaware needed him most. He helped lead the State through some of its most difficult fiscal challenges. He championed open government legislation that gave Delawareans unprecedented access to their representatives and oversaw the passage of landmark civil rights reforms. And he did this while maintaining the friendship and respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

On a personal level, I will always appreciate Speaker Gilligan's friendship and support. He gave me my first job in public service as a legislative fellow, an experience that inspired my work in government and politics.

It has been a real privilege for me to work over the years with Bob, and I would like to congratulate Speaker Bob Gilligan on an outstanding career and wish him well in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING DR. JAMES J. LINKSZ

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. James J. Linksz on the occasion of his retirement from his post as president of the Bucks County Community College in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

As its president for the last 20 years, Dr. Linksz has led the community college through some of its most ambitious expansions, including new investments in technology, the addition of distance-learning courses, and impressive updates to campus buildings and infrastructure.

William Arthur Wood once said the mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates, and the great teacher inspires. During his time at Bucks County Community College, Dr. Linksz has inspired countless students through his leadership and dedication to providing men and women of all ages from Bucks County with a quality education.

On behalf of the people in Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District, I thank Dr. Linksz for his service to the community, and I wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT AND INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reiterate my support for the wind production tax credit and the investment tax credit for offshore wind.

The production tax credit has encouraged nearly $20 billion in nationwide private investment annually over the last 5 years, while the ITC serves as the most fundamental Federal tax incentive for offshore wind development.

As we promote investments that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and serve as a central part in our fight against climate change, it's essential to remember the spillover of job creation and specialized expertise that will follow.

In Massachusetts, we've witnessed firsthand the critical economic development opportunities of renewable energy projects provided to our States. Our region has undergone an economic regeneration with the development of Cape Wind, the Nation's first offshore wind fund. From the Port of New Bedford, which will serve as the staging area for turbine assembly, to the ferry captains who will provide eco-tours of the turbines, few communities will not be benefited by this.

Massachusetts is already recognized as one of the top three States for clean energy. We're home to nearly 5,000 individual clean energy companies, and nearly 2 percent of all Massachusetts jobs are now in this field.

It's important, as we go forward, that we not let this void occur, and we fill it with jobs made in America.

WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the House Sustainable Energy and Environmental Coalition to call on Congress to renew the wind production tax credit.

The wind production tax credit provides a small tax incentive to wind companies to produce clean domestic energy. This tax incentive promotes investment, creates jobs, and encourages deployment of wind energy. At the end of this year, the wind production tax credit expires unless Congress acts.

This tax credit is essential to level the playing field for wind energy. For instance, the oil and gas industry gets around $40 billion in subsidies over 10 years. If we can eliminate oil and gas subsidies, let's do it. If not, we need to renew the wind production tax credit. The tax credit supports 5,000 jobs in Colorado and 75,000 jobs nationally. We cannot afford to lose these jobs.

Both Democrats and Republicans, Senators and House Members agree we need to extend this commonsense tax credit. I urge my colleagues to work together to extend the wind production tax credit to protect and grow America's thriving wind industry.

EXTEND THE WIND CREDIT NOW

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the Senate to highlight an important issue to Iowa, the wind production tax credit. It expires this year, as has been mentioned, and must be extended immediately.

Inaction has already led to job losses in Iowa and threatens thousands of more jobs in our State. The PTC actually has its roots in Iowa and bipartisanship. Senator GRASSLEY worked for its creation, and it has long had bipartisanship support. Last month, the Senate passed a bipartisanship package that included the wind credit. It's past time for the House to act.

Iowa is the second-largest producer of wind energy, and turbine manufacturing involves about 200 companies and 6,000 good paying jobs for Iowans. As we struggle to recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression, Congress cannot play games with people's jobs and pull the rug out from an industry employing thousands.

Congress must extend the wind credit now before more jobs are lost.

THE ENERGY FUTURE OF AMERICA

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of reflection and sadness, and also determination and resolve. The tragic killing of our Ambassador in Libya and his staff should remind us all of the dangers that exist around the world. So we offer our prayers to the families and to the survivors.

We also need to think about the future in America and about the necessity for developing alternative energy systems. The production tax credit for wind is absolutely essential. I represent two major wind farms, one in Solano and the other in Alameda County. Thousands of jobs across this Nation will be lost unless we extend the wind tax credit. Keep in mind that for a century we have subsidized the oil and gas industry. It's time for us to

provide the support necessary to create this industry.

We also ought to be making it in America. One of my bills, H.R. 6217, would require that 85 percent of the content of these turbines and solar systems be made in America.

WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, we had an attack in Cairo on our Embassy yesterday, and we had an attack in Benghazi, and we lost the Ambassador there. He was killed along with three other people.

I've been on the Foreign Affairs Committee now for about 30 years, and I've never seen anything like what we've seen in the northern tier of Africa. All the way across the northern tier, we've seen the spring that they're talking about, and how things are changing and how democracy is coming.

The fact of the matter is Iran is taking advantage of what's going on over there by sending intermediaries into all those countries to undermine them. I was just in the Persian Gulf recently, and there is absolutely no question that Iran is doing everything they can to undermine all those governments over there.

When you look at what happened in Egypt with the Muslim Brotherhood taking over, we in this country ought to be very much aware that this is not the end of it. It's not going to go away. The administration or the new President, whoever it is that takes office in January, they're going to have to have a very strong foreign policy because we still get about 35 percent of our energy from that region.

This is not going to end right now. It's going to go on. We have to be prepared.

MINNESOTA EDUCATION INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5544.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Pursuant to House Resolution 773 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5544.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1230

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5544) to authorize and expedite a land exchange involving National Forest System land in the Laurentian District of the Superior National Forest and certain other National Forest System land in the State of Minnesota that has limited recreational and conservation resources and lands owned by the State of Minnesota in trust for the public school system that are largely scattered in checkerboard fashion within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and have important recreational, scenic, and conservation resources, and for other purposes, with Mr. SIMPSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I support H.R. 5544, the Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act.

This bill will rectify a decades-old injustice that was imposed by Congress during the Carter administration to ensure that funding for schools and education in Minnesota is carried on.

When Minnesota became a State, it received certain parcels of land from the Federal Government set aside to help fund education. These lands, known as school trust lands, were specifically established to provide funding for Minnesota public schools. Responsible timber management, mineral development, and other economic uses of these lands would generate the revenue that would benefit every child in the State.

However, in 1978, Congress designated the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and a portion of these trust lands became trapped inside the wilderness area and inaccessible, therefore, for economic development. This caused a decline in funding, then, for local schools.

H.R. 5544 would implement a bipartisan plan that was passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by Democrat Governor Dayton to authorize a no-cost land exchange. It would allow Minnesota school trust lands, locked away within the Federal wilderness area, to be exchanged for Federal land from the multiple-use Superior National Forest. State forest lands would be fairly exchanged for Federal forest lands.

But typical of the attitude held by many Democrats that spending more of taxpayers' money will solve the problem, the critics of this bill have suggested that the Federal Government should simply buy these inaccessible trust lands at a potential cost of tens of millions of dollars. This is at the same time when the Federal Government has had more than a $1 trillion budget deficit for the last 4 years under this President.

However, the much-needed solution in this bill would consolidate State-held lands within the wilderness area and allow the State of Minnesota to access and develop new trust lands from the Superior National Forest. This will benefit State schools at no cost to the Federal taxpayers, with the additional benefit of job creation and economic development.

Let me elaborate on that, Mr. Chairman. It has been shown time and again that States are far more effective managing lands for sustainable use and revenue generation than the Federal Government. For example, in my home State of Washington, they have been able to produce more than a thousand times the revenue for education on 2.2 million acres of State trust land, as opposed to the U.S. Forest Service, which is able to generate only four times that amount, 9 million acres. In other words, regenerate a thousand-percent revenue on one-fourth of the land because it's administered by the State. I think the same principle can apply to Minnesota.

Putting these State lands back to productive use for education will increase funding for schools across the State, while at the same time creating new opportunities for job creation and economic growth.

This bill is more than a land exchange. It's about keeping a promise when Minnesota became a State. It's about correcting the 34-year consequences of Federal action that restricted access to this vital asset. It's about ensuring that children and schools have the funding that they deserve and were promised. So I urge support of this bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, Federal land grants to States for education have resulted in the transfer of more than 77 million acres of land to over 30 States. These well-meaning acts, taken over 200 years ago, have left communities across the country with a fragmented pattern of land ownership.

Through the Northwest Ordinance enacted in 1787, Minnesota was granted 8.3 million acres of school trust lands. Today, the State has only 2.5 million acres left, with 93,000 located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Proponents of this legislation claim this will right inequities caused by the designation of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. For most of us, it would seem like common sense to do a land trade, but I think most of us would also want a land trade that is fair to both sides.

The State of Minnesota recently enacted State legislation that would allow an exchange of State and Federal

lands. While controversial, it garnered bipartisan support and didn't include language suggesting that we need to waive Federal laws.

As my colleague, Congresswoman MCCOLLUM, will tell us, the State did their job. It is now time for Congress to do our job. Our job is to protect taxpayer assets and the democratic process. Congressman CRAVAACK's bill fails on both of these accounts. We just need to look at the facts.

By failing to require the standard public process that allows all Americans the ability to participate and comment on the exchange of assets, H.R. 5544 robs the citizens of this Nation of their right to participate in the democratic process.

Unlike every other land trade bill brought before this Congress, we have no map showing what Federal lands will go into State ownership for development. Neither the people of Minnesota nor the people of the United States have any idea that we will lose lands critical to protecting drinking water or vital to hunting or motorized recreation. There is no map. The Federal lands to be traded are not identified.

Three Native American tribes have tribal treaties guaranteeing tribal members the right to hunt, fish and gather in the Superior National Forest. This bill potentially deprives these tribes of their access rights.

Second, by failing to ensure that our assets are appropriately valued as part of the exchange, Congressman CRAVAACK's bill shortchanges the American taxpayer. H.R. 5544 defers to the State of Minnesota to decide the value of Federal lands. When Congress authorizes the sale or exchange of Federal assets, it is our job to make sure the Federal Government is getting a good deal.

Again, for every land exchange this Congress has considered, we have relied on standard appraisal processes that are well understood by real estate professionals and land managers. Overriding this practice is like buying a house based on an appraisal provided by the owner, with the owner admitting they really don't have an updated assessment.

Such a scheme fails to protect the interests of the American taxpayers who own this land. We are not talking about a couple million dollars of taxpayer assets here. Estimates nearly a decade old placed the value of these lands at nearly $100 million.

Third, it is not clear this legislation is going to accomplish its stated goal: education investment. During committee consideration of this legislation, Minnesota school officials testified that of the $9,000 per year spent on an average Minnesota student, $26, less than 1 percent, comes from school trust lands receipts. This entire bill is geared to making up the $650,000 the State believes it has lost, a mere drop in the bucket for the overall necessary education investment.

□ 1240

An amendment offered by Congressman HASTINGS that is self-executed in the rule shortchanges three counties in Minnesota. Since 1948, Congress has and continues to provide St. Louis, Cook, and Lake Counties mandatory annual payments to compensate them for lost revenues related to the designation of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Since the passage of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act, these counties have received nearly $60 million in compensation from Thye-Blatnik payments alone. Last year, these payments amounted to $6 million. Chairman HASTINGS' amendment stops increases in these payments, which CBO estimates would be approximately $1 million. This is ironic, considering the entire bill is justified on the State estimating the exchange will increase their school trust revenues by $650,000 a year. Wouldn't it make more sense to go back and see if we can make better use of the existing money going to the State and to the counties?

Finally, this bill fails to garner broad and bipartisan support. Not one Democrat from the Minnesota delegation has cosponsored the legislation. Nearly 25 organizations in the State have written Congress in opposition to the legislation. Minnesota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, representing over 2 million hunters and anglers, oppose the bill. The Star Tribune's editorial board says the bill ''fails the credibility test'' and ''is about converting forest land to mining.''

Many of us, including myself, have had bills to accelerate the land exchange process. However, those bills have safeguards like ensuring that the public can participate in the process; safeguards like ensuring Uncle Sam won't become Uncle Sucker, leaving taxpayers with a raw deal; safeguards like ensuring treaties guaranteeing access to tribes are not impacted. This bill has none of those safeguards. There are ways to do land exchanges that earn public support, garner bipartisan endorsements, and protect taxpayers. This bill fails on all counts and should be rejected.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 8 minutes to the sponsor of this legislation, somebody who has worked extremely hard on behalf of his constituents to correct the injustice that was imposed in 1978, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK).

Mr. CRAVAACK. I thank the chairman for yielding.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5544, the Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act. This bill supports all schools in the State of Minnesota, creates good-paying jobs in northern Minnesota, and makes the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness whole for the first time since its creation.

First, a little bit of history. When Minnesota became a State in 1858, sections 16 and 36 of every township were set aside in trust for the benefit of schools. The State could use, lease, or sell the land to raise money for education. In the beginning, the State leaders decided to sell some of the more valuable parcels of school trust lands. But around the turn of the century they realized they needed more sustainable plans and began putting the school trust lands to productive use: timber and mining in my district. As Democrat State Representative Denise Dittrich has so ably educated me, these lands are not so much owned by the State as held in trust by the State and owned by the schoolchildren of Minnesota. It is the responsibility of school trust fund trustees to maximize the return of these lands for the benefit of this fund for our children. This is written in the Minnesota constitution.

But in the 1970s, the Federal Government created the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The lands within the Boundary Waters cannot be logged, leased, sold, or mined in order to preserve the unique wilderness character of this pristine land. But as a result of its creation, Minnesota and its students have been faced with an 86,000-acre problem for over 30 years. Eighty-six thousand acres of State-owned school trust lands have been landlocked within the borders of the Boundary Waters and have been unable to produce critical funding for Minnesota public education. It is imperative that we resolve this longstanding problem. Our goal is to preserve and protect the Boundary Waters and allow State-owned school trust lands to raise revenue for Minnesota education. It's a win-win. Unfortunately, Minnesota schoolkids and their teachers have been cheated out of public education funding now for over 34 years.

Finally, after years of inaction, stalling, and dilatory tactics by special interest groups, Republicans and Democrats have come together in Minnesota and said: Enough is enough. On March 22 of this year an overwhelming majority of Democrats and Republicans in the State passed senate file 1750 by a vote of 53–11 to pass the bill. On April 3, the house followed suit, passing their bipartisan bill by 90–41. On April 27, Democrat Governor Mark Dayton signed the bill into law.

H.R. 5544 executes the bipartisan State plan. This bill would exchange State-owned school trust lands trapped in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness to the Federal Government in exchange for Federal Government-owned land outside the Boundary Waters. Additionally, this bill includes important provisions that would ensure Minnesotans can maintain their hunting and fishing rights within the Boundary Waters. To be clear, this bill does exempt only the land exchange portion from NEPA. The land exchange itself would have no environmental impact, and any future development

would still be subject to strict State and Federal regulations. Again, a land swap is merely a redrawing of maps and has no environmental impact in and of itself.

I want to be very transparent here, though. One of my goals is to have this bill create good-paying jobs in northern Minnesota. The lands listed in senate file 1750 are rich in natural resources. Many of them lie within portions of the Superior National Forest that are already being successfully mined for timber. It's a working forest and creates thousands of good-paying jobs in the region. Northern Minnesotans need these opportunities, and every American benefits from the steel and the lumber that goes into our cars and our homes.

I generally support the aims of NEPA, but obstructionist and special interest groups have a track record of abusing the NEPA process. The State of Minnesota cannot afford to be sued by environmental groups for years into the future just for the sake of blocking this land exchange. I will not allow special interest groups, acting in bad faith, to abuse the NEPA process and use frivolous lawsuits to block and derail this land exchange at the taxpayers' expense. Schoolkids and teachers in Minnesota can't wait years, possibly decades, for this funding. In the school district where I live, North Branch, Minnesota, some classes have 40 kids and the school has been reduced to a 4-day school week. You call this progress?

This legislation will generate a lot of funding for our schools and create good-paying jobs. Importantly, the Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act would not eliminate a single acre of Boundary Waters land and cost nothing to the American taxpayer. In fact, it would add acreage within the existing wilderness area boundaries while giving Minnesota schoolchildren the land that rightfully belongs to them.

I urge my colleague to support this bill.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. The House should not be spending its limited floor time on this bill. The House should be debating the American Jobs Act, the President's plan to put nearly 2 million Americans back to work without adding a dime to the deficit. Instead, today, the Republican majority has a land exchange bill on the floor that is completely unnecessary. I want to stress that. It is unnecessary. The State of Minnesota and the U.S. Forestry Service have all the authority they need to finalize this land exchange—and finalization is what they are working on.

There's a stakeholder process underway in Minnesota to determine this proposed land sale and exchange. And it's underway. And they're going to do it. And they're working on it, with everyone at the table. So why are we debating this bill at all?

I was a State representative for many years, and I worked on a lot of land exchanges. And I have never worked on a land exchange that has been so unnecessary as what I'm being asked to vote on today. This is a reckless bill, and it also sets a terrible precedent.

□ 1250

This legislation does not specify what lands are to be exchanged. Yes, we know about the school's trust fund land, and that's specified, we know where that is, but we don't know what lands are to be exchanged. We don't know what the finished product is.

Members of Congress are being asked to endorse a land exchange without knowing what lands will be exchanged. This legislation does refer to a bill in the Minnesota State legislature, and the Minnesota State legislation does not include a map of the Federal lands to be exchanged. It does not include a map.

This is the first time in the history of this Congress—of Congress—to bring a bill, a land exchange, to the floor without maps specifying what lands are to be exchanged. The first time in history. Every Member of this House should be asking themselves one simple question: where are the maps?

Now, as I said, I've done many land exchange bills in my service in the Minnesota legislature, and the first rule of all of those land exchange bills is don't forget what you are exchanging out. We always had maps. We had the cost, we had the value, and the public input, and I believe the Minnesota State legislators should be able to finish that process themselves working with the U.S. Forestry, working in a transparent fashion to know exactly what we're voting on.

Why are maps important? Because without a map it's impossible to determine how many Minnesotans could possibly see their property rights threatened by this bill. Can anyone here today tell me how many Minnesota cabin owners could open up their front doors and find a lack of public access to water that they have used and recreated in for years? There's no map. No one can answer that question.

Can anyone tell me how many millions of dollars Minnesota will lose in property value because of issues like this, because of H.R. 5544? No one can answer that question because there are no maps.

This bill could, and I believe will, greatly reduce public access to hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling in areas where the public currently has access. Minnesota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers is a sportsmen's conservation group. They represent over 2 million hunters in Minnesota and anglers as well. The group sent a letter to the U.S. Members of the House this month opposing this bill, and I'd like to quote from it. ''It provides no protective measures for how the land may be used, and no assurances that existing activities like hunting and angling would continue.'' Why? Because there is no map.

There are also 700 miles of snowmobile trails in Superior National Forest that could be at risk because of this bill, trails where public and private trails intermingle and where public and private entities have worked for years raising money and revenues to be able to recreate. But no one can tell me, not Mr. CRAVAACK, not Mr. HASTINGS, no one here, no one can tell me how many trails, lakes, and hunting areas could be closed by this bill because there is no map.

In addition, this bill eliminates the public's ability to participate in any decisionmaking process because it waives the National Environmental Policy Act process.

This is just not the way we do things in Minnesota. We bring people together at the table. We make sure everyone is at the table: the State, the Federal Government, the local governments, the property owners, the hunters, the anglers, the tribal nations, the conservationists, the taxpayers, and yes, the job generators. We make sure that decisions are transparent, and transparency means you have to include a map.

We make sure to get fair market value for land that is sold in exchange so that it's in the best interest of the taxpayers.

As a Member of Congress representing Minnesota, and as a Member of the House Interior Subcommittee, I want to stress I am committed to supporting land exchange so that it is a good deal for Minnesota, a good deal for the American taxpayers, and I'm committed that the process that's in place in Minnesota moves forward.

I serve with those northern legislators. They have fought for years to get something on the table. They deserve to have the process finish and finish correctly. They need good legislation, not bad legislation. Minnesota will produce good legislation.

There is a stakeholders group in Minnesota that is working to determine if the land proposal is fair and transparent. They're not at the table, folks. It does not require a congressional action to finalize their proposal. It does not take congressional action to move forward the legislation that has passed and been signed into law by the Governor.

This bill is unnecessary, it is reckless, and it sets a dangerous precedent for this House for the first time ever to vote on a land exchange without a full, complete map.

The House should defeat H.R. 5544, and it should allow Minnesota to move forward without this interference and this recklessness.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the chairman of the subcommittee that dealt with this legislation, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, you know, we do processes here in government, and hopefully we do them for a reason. But when the process we have harms kids, we should ask ourselves why do we have this slavish devotion to the process.

The problem before the State of Minnesota today is simply Federal action that took place 34 years ago that took lands guaranteed and devoted to the kids of Minnesota and took them away by Federal action.

I live in a State that does have a State trust lands policy where the use of that school makes a significant contribution to the education of our kids. It wasn't always that way. We took it seriously.

The State of Minnesota now wants to take this process seriously and develop resources that would be beneficial for their kids in a significant way and equalize the process, as we do in my home State, to benefit all the kids that are in public education.

This is one of those situations in which we have had plenty of time to solve this problem but obviously the Federal Government has not moved forward to give to the State of Minnesota what will benefit their kids.

In the hearing we had on this particular bill, the Forest Service said, Yeah, we can do this process. Give us about 4 years to evaluate all of these lands. Our Constitution gives us a right to a speedy trial. I wish it gave us a right to speedy decisions by bureaucrats. In 4 years an entire class of kids can start and finish high school without having any benefit from these lands that were theirs in the first place.

I do not know why those who constantly breathe the air of the Potomac River are the ones who are always wringing their hands and dragging their feet, but it seems to be the same way.

Mr. Chairman, you and I worked in the State legislature, where we had time limits. I had 45 days to get something accomplished or you didn't do it.

I taught school on trimesters. I had 90 days to cover the material, or I didn't get to do it. Can you imagine what would happen if the principal came to me and said, We're going to do our final test on Tuesday. And I said, I'm sorry. I couldn't possibly cover all of that material by Tuesday. Maybe in 4 years from Tuesday I might be able, if you're lucky, to get through the material and actually be ready for that particular test.

One of the issues in this campaign is indeed dealing with permits. What takes my State 45 days on average or less to permit takes the Federal government 307 days on average to do it. That's the process we're talking about here.

The State of Minnesota has a State process in place. It covers tribal issues. It covers all of the issues that are there, and this would take precedence. The State of Minnesota is just as smart as the Federal Forest Service in solving these problems, except the State of Minnesota wants to do it quickly and the Federal Forest Service is not.

This will also eliminate potential delaying litigation using Federal laws to actually do that.

Look. It is simply time for us to realize that if this bill passes, it helps the Forest Service because it takes away inholding problems. It also helps kids of Minnesota because it guarantees a funding source for their education in the future. We should be doing our job and moving us forward and taking this process away from an agency that moves at glacial speed to help kids.

□ 1300

It is time. It's time we do something to help kids instead of harming kids. This bill helps kids, and I am proud to vote for it.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, part of the argument is that the Forest Service is dragging its feet and will not allow this process to continue. I would suggest that the Minnesota Legislature came to the realization it was something they needed to do. That process was initiated, legislation was passed, and that process continues. The role of the Federal Government in hindering that does not exist. This was a volition and a decision that Minnesota and its representatives had to take.

On June 22, 1948, President Truman signed legislation into law to authorize the acquisition of private lands within what is now known as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The legislation was promoted as a way to protect important natural resource values from commercialization and to compensate Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties for the loss of private tax revenue.

During the legislative process, Congressman Blatnik argued that counties should receive 12 cents per acre of Federal land for compensation of lost property tax revenues. The Truman administration, arguing that the 12 cents per acre figure was excessive, negotiated compensation to three-quarters of 1 percent of fair market value, which is the way the law was enacted and stands today.

Each year since, these counties have received mandatory payments, adjusted periodically to reflect increased property values. Last year, these payments totaled over $6 million. Under the funding formula, more Federal lands mean more Federal money. Absent the Hastings amendment, Lake, Cook, and St. Louis Counties, all within the sponsor of this legislation's district, stood to receive another $1 million annually.

We raised questions regarding this payment from the time the bill was heard in subcommittee until the bill was reported from full committee. In fact, I sent letters to each county commissioner in these counties trying to learn more about how these funds were used. I received two responses. Both indicated they support the current Thye-Blatnik formula and relied on these payments to compensate for lost property tax revenue. Surprisingly, no one wants to talk about these payments because they would be considered earmarks—earmarks which the sponsor voted against supporting, along with many other members of his caucus.

I represent a district with a lot of Federal lands. My counties get payments through PILT and through Secure Rural Schools. We have to fight like crazy to extend payments every time these bills come for reauthorization. Yet today, we have a bill that purports to be about education funding for Minnesota kids. What kind of role models are we if we can't even have an educated conversation about what Federal money is currently going to Minnesota?

Let's just look at the arithmetic. Minnesota State Representative Denise Dittrich testified before the committee that the State was losing $650,000 annually from foregone revenues because the State trust lands were within the wilderness area. She supports the enactment of this legislation to make up for the revenue. Yet, because of the Hastings amendment, this legislation actually takes $1 million in revenue away from the Counties of Lake, Cook, and St. Louis.

Are we robbing Peter to pay Paul? That's the question.

I reserve the balance of my time.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2012.

To: Amelia Jenkins.

Subject: Request from Ranking Member Grijalva related to Thye Blatnik.

DEAR AMELIA, As a county commissioner in Cook County Minnesota I am opposed to any change in the long standing, reasonably established (with the Boundary Waters legislation many years ago) legislation that has, in effect, the Federal Government making payments to Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties that makes up for property taxes that were lost by locking this land into the federal wilderness system.

There was much local opposition and controversy surrounding the establishment of this wilderness, which was for the benefit of the whole country, and these payments were established to offset taxes lost and create a more positive relationship between these 3 counties and the federal government.

This is one case where the history of the legislation needs to be revisited and reasons for it need to be properly understood.

Thanks,

JIM JOHNSON,
Cook County Commissioner (District 4, which includes Cook Counties portion of the boundary waters).

LAKE COUNTY, MINNESOTA,
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
Two Harbors, MN, September 10, 2012.

Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA,
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, Committee on Natural Resources, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER GRIJALVA: This letter is in response to your recent inquiry regarding the 1948 Thye-Blatnik (T–B) Act payments to the Tr-Counties of Northeastern Minnesota. Given the tight timeline of your request and the limited amount of legislative days remaining in the 112th Congress, I understand the urgency of your request and have tried my best to provide you with the answers to the questions that we received from your staff.

I must begin, by first explaining that there are a couple limitations which I face in attempting to answer your questions. First, Lake County only has a population of 11,000 people and our tax base is very, very, low because over 80% of our large land mass is now government-owned. Thus, we do not have the kinds of resources or readily available personnel to rapidly respond to each of your questions at a deep level of detail. I will try my best, however, to at least cover the basics.

An additional hindrance is this county and several others here in the Arrowhead Region of Northeastern Minnesota were victims of a flood earlier this summer. The President declared us a Federal Disaster Area and we have been just ''swamped'' with FEMA personnel and state officials helping us to cope with what has been described as a ''once in every 500 year flood.'' Understandably, public safety and getting our roads and bridges repaired along with getting hundreds of homeowners back into their homes, has been and continues to be our number one priority.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY: The following is a brief background and history of the Thye-Blatnik Act, which will hopefully give you some insight into just how this 1 million acre Wilderness, now known as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, came into being. If you research the original title of the bill, HR. 2642, it reads, ''A bill to safeguard and consolidate certain areas of exceptional public value . . . within Minnesota''. The bill title truly helps to get at the heart of what ultimately lead to the passage of this legislation. The ''exceptional value'' of the lands located within the Boundary Waters were so deemed because, quite frankly, that's exactly what they were. And, the value of these lands, especially what they meant to the local economy, became the focal point of the deliberations on the bill.

In the following paragraphs and in addition to some historical points, I quote to you some of the direct testimony, written history, and rationale that best describes why Congress concluded that in order to create this eventual million acre wilderness, some sort of adequate compensation had to be given to the affected counties who would be giving up their current and future ''priceless'' tax base, forever.

Before the bill could be introduced, the commissioners of St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties objected to further federal acquisition. Their opposition stemmed from the continuing financial distress of these counties. An understanding of their fiscal problems is necessary to comprehend the deep well of opposition in the northern area. In the twenty years following 1925 the taxable property in these counties had been drastically reduced; revenues had declined, expansion seemed unlikely, and hopes for prosperity withered. In Lake County, for example, the assessed value of real property shrank from $4,000,000 in 1924–25 to $1,500,000 in 1944–45. Property tax revenue dropped from $343,000 in 1931 to $251,000 in 1941.

The obvious way to break the cycle of dependence on outside aid was to expand the local economy in every way possible by using all available natural resources. One such resource was private real estate. However, federal acquisition of land within and outside the roadless areas had eliminated many opportunities for real estate developments. The Ely Commercial Club asked that the roadless areas be reduced in size to allow tourist development ''on a scale comparable with other sections of the state.'' With smaller roadless areas it would be possible to develop what they called ''now inaccessible resort sites'' on lakes supposedly off the track for even occasional canoe trips.

The commercial club objected to the government's purchase of the remaining private lands on the theory that developing them would do ''the most good for the most people in the long run. We have no particular ax to grind with dyed-in-the-wool conservationists so long as their plans don't take the bread out of our mouths.''

Paul W. Nelson, Lake County's auditor, had foreseen the impact of federal purchases on local taxes as early as 1938. At the time he had justified higher levies on Hubachek's property because the Forest Service had already ''removed from our tax rolls'' 290,000 acres of land. . . . ''You and the other taxpayers will have to absorb the loss,'' he wrote.

The issue of federal aid in lieu of taxes had been before the Congress since 1938. A joint committee on forestry had hearings and filed a report in March, 1941, recommending (among other things) legislation authorizing ''an equitable system of financial contribution to local government in lieu of taxes on forest land removed from the tax rolls through Federal acquisition.''

In 1943 the Federal Real Estate Board filed a report on each class of federal real estate, its contribution, if any, to state and local governments, with recommendations for greater equity in lieu of tax contributions. The report noted that the proceeds from national forest timber sales ''have not been wholly adequate to protect local taxpayers from undue burdens'' when the national forest lands were purchased from private owners. . . . To meet this problem, the real estate board recommended guaranteeing to the counties ''a minimum payment equal to a specified percentage of the purchase price.'' This would give the local governments a dependable source of income with which to plan annual budgets and enable them to use their share of timber revenues to the best advantage. As an acceptable rate of compensation, the board suggested ¾ of 1 per cent of the taxable value of federal lands.

The best known were the Cordon, Colmer, and McNary bills which differed only in the amount of compensation they proposed. All bills based payments on the fair market value of the national forest lands. The county officials in northeastern Minnesota thought compensation in lieu of taxes would be a great improvement over the intermittent revenues they had received from timber sales, and considered the Colmer and Cordon proposals as models for special legislation affecting their counties.

''The nation ought to pay in considerable part for the preservation of assets in Lake County which benefit the nation, ''Commissioner M. H. Bickley said the history of federal acquisition proved that ''something has always been taken away from us and nothing given back in the way of reimbursement.''

We are dealing with human beings and hard dollars.'' The counties were economically run, and Hubachek had open sympathy ''for what will ultimately be their plight'' when more than 80 per cent of their lands would be removed from the tax rolls.

The Quetico-Superior program was based on the value of the entire roadless areas to the nation. ''If that is true, then the contribution of the country as a whole should he greater and less of the burden shall fall on the local interests.''

The combined Thye-Blatnik acquisition-compensation bill floated into the congressional stream with dozens of other postwar resources and conservation measures. The modest Thye-Blatnik bill was a compromise proposal that harnessed downstate Minnesota conservationists, northern businessmen, and county officials in a common effort.

Hearings on the Blatnik bill began on April 28, 1947—exactly nineteen years after the introduction of the Shipstead-Nolan bill. Blatnik emphasized compensation for the three counties as ''an indispensable part of the bill.'' Twelve cents per acre was ''an irreducible minimum compensation.'' Paul Nelson represented the counties. He was proud, he said, that the Superior forest was called the ''playground for the Nation'' because the area was more valuable for recreation than timber. But, he asked, ''Should the local taxpayers furnish such a playground or should our country as a whole share in the expense of maintaining it?'' Unless the nation paid the bill, the measure should he defeated.

Wilson followed Hopkins, describing the rapidity with which the roadless areas were being exploited. The program ''to preserve and render accessible for posterity . . . a wilderness that is within reach of all the people of this country'' was imperiled. If the bill did not pass, the ''whole program of protecting this wilderness will be sunk.''

Discussion of the Blatnik bill centered on the compensation clause. . . . One astute conservationist speculated that unless the counties received 12 cents per acre, they ''would undoubtedly like to gamble their potential tax rates from private development in the Roadless Area against the federal reimbursement rate over future years.'' On that basis they would try to kill the bill, ''demand protection of private property throughout the federal forest, and fight the whole thing as federal interference and bureaucratic control.''

At the end of 1947 Blatnik's bill was stalled in the House, while Senators Ball and Thye refused to move their measure until the Forest Service and the counties agreed on a rate of compensation. But they also knew that Blatnik and the county commissioners would withdraw their support for the measure if the compensation were reduced or removed.

By reaffirming this statute and by directing the Forest Service to purchase and remove resorts and private properties, Congress gave further definition and weight to the idea of wilderness preservation—an idea that would receive complete expression sixteen years later in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

For the first time in its history, the Forest Service had authority to purchase lands for some purpose other than timber production and watershed protection. In this respect, the Thye-Blatnik Act set one of the most significant precedents in forest policy in forty years. Congress broadened and reaffirmed the principles implicit in the Thye-Blatnik Act in 1964 by passing the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, a measure providing widespread federal authority for purchasing and developing land for public recreation.

With regards to your individual questions which you asked in your letter to my county here are the answers to your questions:

Level of funding my county has received for the most recent fiscal year in Thye-Blatnik funding?

Answer: Not exactly sure, except that between all three counties we now split approximately $6 million per year in total T–B funding. Since each county has approximately one-third of the land mass of the BWCA in each county, rounding-off, that means Lake County received nearly $2 million in T–B funding. Regardless, as explained in more detail later in this document, this T–B funding is required to be offset against our regular federal PILT payment and that coupled with other variables in the overall national PI LT formula, Secure Schools provisions, etc., means that T–B payments simply cannot be looked at in isolation. Ultimately, I was able to document that our latest NET PILT PAYMENT was only $246,972. With 727,111 acres of federal lands in our county, this certainly doesn't seem fair.

How is T–B funding used?

Answer: All of the uses you mentioned, but, because of the preponderance of government owned land in our county, we have a very limited tax base. Thus, most T–B dollars are used as part of our general revenue stream.

Has T–B funding decreased in last 10 years?

Answer: No, reappraisals are done once every 10 years, so it would only be in the 11th year that we would know what our next decade's level of funding will be. The last T–B reappraisal appears to have been done in either 2008 or 2009. Because of the national real estate bubble that occurred during the first decade of this century, I believe we did receive a sizeable increase in our T–B payments, but again, with the offsets that this had against us, I believe not all of that money truly materializes. Also, we won't know if these higher T–B payments will last when the next appraisal is completed. This is because of the hyper-inflated real estate bubble that occurred throughout much of the last decade.

In conclusion, I believe the deliberations that occurred in Washington during 1947–48 make it abundantly clear there was a consensus that some sort of compensation needed to be given to the local governments of Northeastern Minnesota. That consensus came with the full realization that in order to get this legislation passed into law, Congress would have to help at least partially offset the permanent loss of future tax base and economic activity that this Region would obviously suffer into perpetuity.

There was a clear recognition that the traditional sources of economic activity of this natural resource rich region—mining, logging, summer cottages, and motorized recreation opportunities would now be effectively cut by at least 50%, forever. In the years following Thye-Blatnik we've also witnessed passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act along with the Vento-Burton Act of 1978 which added additional economic restrictions and acreage to the BWCA. Counter-arguments have been made that the existence of a very appealing million acre wilderness featuring non-motorized wilderness travel for tourists to enjoy should help offset much of the alternative economic loss. On the surface, such an argument may look appealing. On closer examination, however, what has instead resulted is what economists call a ''closed market.''

Such a closed market for the BWCA is best exemplified in the permit system for campers wishing to visit the BWCA. This system effectively ''caps'' the number of visitors that are annually allowed into the park. In other words, while other regions of America with national parks and federal wilderness areas can at least count on some annual growth in visitors, for the BWCA, the number of visitors is in effect permanently capped at a little over 200,000 visitors. Unfortunately, with an aging population the number of U.S. citizens physically capable of portaging canoes and enduring the elements, this has meant that the annual visitors to the BWCA in recent years has actually been falling. How much? Between 2004–2010, visitor use in the BWCA fell by 12%.

Meanwhile, the 1,000 plus lakes in the BWCA with their tens of thousands of miles of extremely valuable shoreline, goes mostly underutilized and significantly underused. Other lakes in our region outside of the BWCA, currently have lakeshore selling at anywhere from between $1,000 to $2,000 a running foot. If one were to apply those kinds of numbers, to the tens of thousands of miles of shoreline in the BWCA that are forever off the tax rolls, one then realizes the incredible economic sacrifice that the people of our three counties have truly made for the greater good of the entire nation.

Finally, it appears that many are not cognizant of the fact of the interplay between the Thye-Blatnik lands and the later (1976) Federal PILT Program formula which all states with federal lands benefit. Although there are many variables that come into play, in essence, our three counties are required to ''deduct'' from our PILT payments the dollars which we receive from our Thye-Blatnik payments (as are other Section 6903 lands). As a result, this offset means that our Tri counties of Northeastern Minnesota are now receiving only pennies on the PILT dollar than we normally would.

Congressman Grijalva, I assume that this same unintended consequence with the Federal PILT law may also be occurring in your District? I noticed that of the dozen Special Acts of Congress contained in Section 6903 of the Federal PILT Law, both the Thye-Blatnik lands and the 1910 enabling Acts of Arizona and New Mexico are both included. Again, although the intermingling of these various laws gets extremely complicated, I hope that in the near future, we can refocus and begin to work together to help remove some of the real inequities and unintended consequences that are beginning to develop with the interplay of the existing national PILT Law.

Thank you for your interest in this overall issue and hope I have given you sufficient rationale as to why the Thye-Blatnik law found it an absolute necessity to partially compensate our counties for the permanent loss of tax base and our lost future economic viability. Indeed it was a steep price to pay, but something which was a sacrifice which ultimately was made for the greatest good of our entire nation.

Sincerely,

RICH SVE,

Chair, Lake County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I'd advise my friend that I am prepared to close.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, among the many flaws in the legislation is a provision waiving compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, NEPA. NEPA has been under attack by the Republicans for years. Most famously, former Chairman Pombo led a yearlong effort to undermine the law before leaving Congress.

NEPA stands for two very simple principles: The first is that the Federal Government should think before it acts, and the second is that the Federal Government should listen to the American people before it acts.

NEPA does not dictate outcome. It requires Federal agencies to gather information, consider alternatives, and seek public input before taking action that would significantly impact the environment.

Waiving NEPA means waiving educated decisionmaking, waiving NEPA means waiving transparency, and waiving NEPA means waiving the possibility that the American people should play a role in managing the natural resources which they own.

In the case of H.R. 5544, waiving NEPA means waiving any process for determining which Federal lands will be given to the State, what lands will be traded away, and how will they be chosen. Apparently, that information is to remain secret.

Will lands currently used for recreation or to protect water quality or to preserve critical habitat be traded to the State for logging and mining? We have no way to know.

Waiving NEPA shrouds this land deal in secrecy and insulates it from any public input. Why should any Member in this House oppose allowing his or her constituents to have input in the management of Federal natural resources? Cutting out public input is undemocratic, unwise, and unfair.

Now we have heard claims that NEPA should be waived because it leads to so-called ''frivolous'' legislation. Of course, ''frivolous'' is often in the eye of the beholder.

The facts are that NEPA is more than 40 years old, its regulations are flexible and well-settled, and NEPA litigation is fairly rare. What's more, timber companies, cattlemen, mining companies, and other industry plaintiffs file NEPA litigation just as often, if not more, than environmental groups.

We are also told that NEPA causes too much delay. This accusation is also unfounded. NEPA regulations allow for agreed-upon timeframes and page limits to move the process along. Instances when the NEPA process appears to drag on are often the result of an applicant who fails to provide necessary information in a timely fashion or changes the parameters of their project midstream. These anti-NEPA claims are not based on fact and they are a smokescreen, a smokescreen designed to hide the fact that the real goal of exempting this land deal from NEPA is to shield this exchange from public scrutiny.

Later today, Mr. HOLT will have an amendment to restore NEPA compliance for this land deal, and that amendment should be approved. A vote for NEPA is a vote for the idea that average Americans might have something valuable to say about the management of their natural resources. A vote for the bill without NEPA is a vote to shroud this deal in darkness so that its potential impacts on habitat or water quality or recreation remain hidden from public view.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I'll just advise my friend that I am prepared to close if he will yield back.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I will close at this point.

This debate, quite honestly, Mr. Chairman, makes me feel like I'm living in an alternative reality—a reality where the protections of God's bounty on this Earth are nothing more than an opportunity cost for local governments, a reality where we think it's perfectly acceptable to fund our children's education by stealing from the natural resource legacy our forefathers sought to protect, a reality where $650,000 for St. Paul is more important than $1 million going to counties most impacted by this exchange, a reality where the basic ability for people to be informed about government actions and to voice their views is blocked by a party that prides itself on the idea of liberty. I don't know about you, but this is not the reality that I want to live in.

We could have brought this bill to the floor today with strong bipartisan support and resolved the real issue of isolated State lands within the Boundary Waters, just like the Minnesota Legislation did. Instead, it is Groundhog Day where antiwilderness and antigovernment philosophies are masked as a concern for education funding when the arithmetic doesn't actually support the argument.

This is a disappointment. This bill is bad for forests, bad for wildlife, bad for the American people, and should be rejected.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I am sitting here absolutely amazed by the debate on this issue. This is really very, very simple.

In 1978, there was no Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, so there were trust lands in that part of Minnesota that were generating revenue for public schools in Minnesota. So in 1978, Congress passed the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and they took that land out of trust. So that means there is a deficiency in trust lands for Minnesota schools. This legislation simply seeks to correct that, nothing more than that. Nothing more than that.

□ 1310

So, in fact, here's another way to put it, Mr. Chairman. If the Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness had not been passed, we wouldn't be here today because you would have those trust lands generating revenue. But because it included that area, we are here today.

Now, I heard my good friend from St. Paul talking about the transparency and everybody should be involved in decisionmaking. What happened in 1978 when this 86,000 acres was taken out of trust?

Where was the transparency?

Where was the goodwill that was coming from the Federal Government to the citizens of Minnesota at that time? It apparently wasn't there.

Now, I know the Forest Service can make those adjustments. They don't need an act of Congress to do it; but, Mr. Chairman, it's been 34 years. Don't you think, after 34 years, if the ability were there that it would be done if there was a will on both sides to do so?

Apparently, there might have been a will on both sides, but there are others that were involved that said, no, let's slow the process down. So the Minnesota Legislature said, let's get this thing going, and they passed the legislation, and this simply carries out the act of the legislature that was signed by the Governor. And it's really nothing more than that.

I'm absolutely amazed by the detail that goes on because what comes out of all of this debate, from my point of view which, ironically, comes from Members that represent Minnesota, is they don't trust Minnesotans to make the right decisions as to what part of that national forest would be used for trust lands. I find that mind-boggling.

I think the gentleman from northern Minnesota is doing right by his constituents with this legislation to correct what has happened 34 years ago.

So this is a good piece of legislation, Mr. Chairman. I urge it's adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5544, the Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act, which will set in motion a long overdue exchange of federal lands in Northeast Minnesota that will create jobs and unlock millions of dollars each year for our state's schools.

When Minnesota became a state in 1858, the federal government granted each township two plots of land to be developed, leased, or sold exclusively for the benefit of Minnesota schools. Under the Minnesota Constitution and Minnesota Law, these lands must generate revenue for schools. However, when the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness was created in 1978, 86,000 acres of school trust lands were locked within the boundaries, where logging, mining, and other lucrative activities are prohibited. For over 30 years, these lands have been stripped of their revenue-raising potential and Minnesota students have been missing out on a vital revenue source for needed school improvement projects.

Thankfully, this year, a bipartisan coalition at the Minnesota State Capital, including Democratic Governor Mark Dayton, stood up to special interests and apathy to recoup the important school funding source that was sealed off with the creation of the Boundary Waters. They enacted legislation at the state level to allow an exchange of the school trust lands contained within the Boundary Waters for federal lands outside the Boundary Waters. Such an exchange would not eliminate a single acre of BWCAW land, but it would enable the creation of well-paying jobs for Minnesotans on the newly acquired lands.

H.R. 5544 will finalize the federal side of this broadly supported exchange, which will greatly benefit Minnesota students, job seekers, and families across the state. I applaud Congressman CRAVAACK for introducing this necessary legislation and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112–30, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 112–660, is adopted.

The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5544

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act''.

SEC. 2. LAND EXCHANGE, BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS AND SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST, MINNESOTA.

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

(1) The State of Minnesota owns multiple parcels of land in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in the Superior National Forest that were granted to the State through sections 16 and 36 of the Enabling Act of 1857 to be held in trust for the benefit of the public school system in the State (in this section referred to as ''State trust lands'').

(2) The State trust lands were acquired by the State long before the establishment of either the National Forest System or the wilderness area and are scattered in a largely checkerboard fashion amid the Superior National Forest and the wilderness area.

(3) The presence of State trust lands in the wilderness area makes land and resource management in the wilderness area more difficult, costly, and controversial for the United States and the State.

(4) Although the State trust lands were granted to the State to generate financial support for the public school system through the sale or development of natural resources, development of those resources in the wilderness area may be incompatible with managing the wilderness area for recreational, natural, and conservation purposes.

(5) The United States owns land and interests in land in other parts of the State that can be transferred to the State in exchange for the State trust lands without jeopardizing Federal management objectives or needs.

(6) It is in the public interest to exchange, on terms that are fair to the United States and the State, National Forest System land in the State that has limited recreational and conservation resources for State trust lands located in the wilderness area with important recreational, scenic, and conservation resources for permanent public management and use.

(7) The Legislature of the State of Minnesota, meeting in its 87th Legislative Session, passed (and on April 27, 2012, the Governor of Minnesota approved) S.F No. 1750 (Chapter 236), section 4 of which adds section 92.80 to the Minnesota Statutes to expedite the exchange of a portion of the State trust lands located within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

(b) LAND EXCHANGE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall consummate a land exchange with the State of Minnesota pursuant to section 4 of S.F No. 1750 (Chapter 236) of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota (section 92.80 of the Minnesota Statutes) to acquire all

right, title, and interest of the State in and to certain State trust lands identified as provided in such section in exchange for all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to National Forest System land in the State for inclusion in the State trust lands.

(c) VALUATION OF LANDS FOR EXCHANGE.—Subdivision 4 of section 4 of S.F No. 1750 (Chapter 236) of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota (section 92.80 of the Minnesota Statutes) shall control for purposes of the examination and value determination of the lands to be exchanged.

(d) SURVEY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land to be exchanged under subsection (b) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The State of Minnesota shall be responsible for the costs of the survey and all other administrative costs related to the land exchange.

(e) BOUNDARIES AND MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—

(1) LAND ACQUIRED BY SECRETARY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The land acquired by the Secretary under subsection (b) shall be added to and administered as part of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness established pursuant to section 3 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1132(a)), and the Secretary shall modify the boundaries of the wilderness area to reflect inclusion of the acquired lands. Subject to subparagraph (B), the land acquired by the Secretary shall be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and other laws and regulations applicable to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(B) NO EFFECT ON EXISTING FISHING AND HUNTING RIGHTS.—The acquisition of land by the United States under subsection (b) and inclusion of the land in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness shall not alter or otherwise affect—

(i) any fishing and hunting rights in existence with respect to the land immediately before the conveyance of the land to the United States; or

(ii) the use of such rights after conveyance.

(2) LAND ACQUIRED BY STATE.—The land acquired by the State of Minnesota under subsection (b) shall be deemed to be State trust lands and shall be held in trust for the benefit of the public school system in the State. It is the sense of Congress that, whenever the land acquired by the State of Minnesota under subsection (b) is not being used for revenue-generating activities, the State should make the land available for other compatible uses, including hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, snowmobiling, and trail riding.

(3) BOUNDARIES OF SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST.—The Secretary shall modify the boundaries of the Superior National Forest to reflect the land exchange conducted under this section.

(f) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—

(1) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACT.—For purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l–9), the boundaries of the Superior National Forest, as modified by subsection (e)(3), shall be considered to be boundaries of the Superior National Forest as of January 1, 1965.

(2) NOT A MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—The land exchange conducted under this section shall not be considered to be a major Federal action.

(3) THYE-BLATNIK ACT.—The Secretary shall not take into consideration the lands acquired by the United States under this Act in determining the appraised value of National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota used for purposes of making payments to the State of Minnesota under the Act of June 22, 1948, and the Act of June 22, 1956 (commonly known as the Thye-Blatnik Act and Humphrey-Thye-Blatnik-Andresen Act; 16 U.S.C. 577c through 577h).

(g) NO IMPACT ON OTHER LAND EXCHANGES.—The land exchange described in subsection (b) does not affect any land exchange involving National Forest System land in the State of Minnesota underway as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(h) REPORT.—If the Secretary fails to complete the land exchange described in subsection (b) before the end of the 18-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress, not later than 30 days after the end of such period, a report—

(1) specifying the reasons why the exchange has not been completed; and

(2) stating the date by which the Secretary anticipates the conveyance will be completed.

The CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 112–660. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. MCCOLLUM

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 112–660.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 2(a) (page 3, after line 2), insert the following new paragraph (and redesignate the subsequent paragraph accordingly):

(7) The proposed land exchanged would include land ceded or sold in the Treaty with the Chippewa of 1854, in which the signatory tribes reserved hunting, fishing, and gathering rights on the land ceded. Federal courts have affirmed the continuing existence of those rights. The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult on a government-to-government basis with potentially affected Indian tribes and ensure that the land exchange does not impinge upon treaty rights.

In section 2(e)(1)(B)(i) (page 5, line 7), strike ''fishing and hunting rights'' and insert ''fishing, hunting, and gathering rights''.

In section 2(e)(2) (page 5, line 22), insert ''gathering,'' after ''fishing,''.

In section 2(f) (page 6, after line 13), add the following new paragraph:

(3) NO IMPACT ON TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act shall limit, alter, restrict, or abrogate, or be construed to have such effect, on rights to hunt, fish, and gather as reserved in Article 11 of the Treaty of September 30, 1854 (10 Stat. 1109).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 773, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, as you've already heard here today, H.R. 5544 is missing an awful lot of important details and taxpayer protections. One major omission in this bill is its failure to acknowledge the treaty rights of Minnesota's tribal nations.

Treaty rights are a predominant concern in this land exchange because unspecified lands are under consideration in H.R. 5544 because we don't have a map. They're all within the Superior National Forest, which is governed by the 1854 treaty between the Chippewa nations and the United States Government.

The terms of the treaty guarantee that tribal nations can continue to fish, hunt and gather, and otherwise use the land to support their way of life. However, in its current form, this bill completely ignores the treaty rights of tribal nations.

The Minnesota process that's moving forward in the State of Minnesota includes the tribal nations. We need to make sure that the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa have their treaty obligations protected and met by the United States Government.

The tribal council of Grand Portage of Chippewa has contacted my office to express their great opposition to this bill. Chairwoman Diver of the Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa has sent letters in opposition to Governor Dayton, Secretary Vilsack of Agriculture, Senators FRANKEN, KLOBUCHAR, and to Representative CRAVAACK.

Mr. Chair, at the appropriate time, I have a copy of that letter to submit to the RECORD.

Minnesota's tribes foresee a negative impact of this bill on their guaranteed treaty rights for use of their land because they are not being considered as part of the process under the Cravaack bill.

The quote from Chairwoman Diver's letter, in fact, is:

We oppose the Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act until suitable tribal consultation has occurred.

The chairwoman also disagrees with the conclusion that the exchange of more than 86,000 acres without government-to-government consultation ''shall not be considered to be major Federal action.''

It's hard to see how anyone could consider the exchange of land that is being governed by a Federal treaty with sovereign tribal nations to be anything less than a major Federal action. Yet this bill denies the level of consideration for the exchange.

The amendment that I'm introducing would recognize the reserved fishing, hunting and gathering rights of the tribes and other lands under consideration. The language for this amendment was drafted in consultation with legal representation from the three impacted tribes and from input from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

This amendment will not solve the fundamental problems of this bill, but it is an effort to respond to the threat against tribal interests and tribal sovereignty that this bill contains. This bill does not change the fact that Minnesota now sees the Federal Government in a jump-start effort to establish a process for Minnesota on how to handle the finishing touches to the land transfer.

Well, I believe at least the tribal voices should be at the table to be heard.

So, Mr. Chair, I do not believe that H.R. 5544 should be moved forward. I will be voting against the bill. I want to be clear about that.

However, if this unnecessary, unclear bill is to proceed, at least at a minimum, we should protect our U.S. government-to-government treaty rights and any land exchange.

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

FOND DU LAC BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE,
Cloquet, MN, May 30, 2012.

Re The Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act.

Hon. MARK DAYTON,
Governor of Minnesota, State Capitol, St. Paul, MN.

DEAR GOVERNOR DAYTON: We oppose the passage of the Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act until suitable tribal consultation has occurred. The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation Business Committee is opposed to the Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act's exchange of over 86,000 acres of land within the 1854 Ceded Territory without any tribal participation in task force meetings or consultation.

The Fond du Lac Band and the other signatories of the 1854 Treaty of LaPointe, 10 Stat. 1109, retain hunting, fishing, and other usufructuary rights that extend throughout the entire northeast portion of the state of Minnesota (the ''Ceded Territory''). In the Ceded Territory, all the Bands have a legal interest in protecting natural resources and all federal agencies share in the federal government's trust responsibility to the Bands to maintain those treaty resources. State agencies also have executive orders affirming the government-to-government relationship between the State of Minnesota and Indian tribal governments located within the State.

The Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act concludes that it will not affect usufructuary rights and concludes that the exchange of more than 86,000 acres without government-to-government consultation ''[s]hall not be considered to be a major Federal action.'' We disagree with those conclusions and therefore request consultation regarding the proposed land exchange within the Ceded Territory.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

KAREN R. DIVER,
Chairwoman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I respect the gentlelady's concern for Native Americans. As a matter of fact, I will simply say that's one of the reasons when I became chairman of Natural Resources Committee that we had a subcommittee dealing with their issues because I think they were being neglected in the past, and so I share that concern.

But this amendment, honestly, is really not necessary. And I have to say this, Mr. Chairman. At this very last minute here, as we're debating this on the floor, it raises an issue that has not previously been raised.

Let me just go back to the history of this legislation. This issue was not raised at any point during the subcommittee hearing or the full committee markup of this legislation, nor was this issue mentioned in the dissenting views that were filed by the minority in their bill report, nor was this issue raised by the gentlelady from Minnesota's detailed letter opposing this bill that was dated on July 24. So I don't know why it's coming up now when it was not previously raised in the legislative process.

But, Mr. Chairman, I can state very clearly that the Federal Government has a duty to uphold treaty obligations and trust responsibilities to Indian tribes. These will be upheld, and they are not changed by this bill.

There are inherent obligations that the Federal Government has to Indian tribes, and they need to be respected.

This amendment is not necessary and, as written, may potentially raise complex questions about whether the amendment itself would alter the treaty obligations of the Chippewa. The original treaty with the Chippewa of 1854 referred specifically to fishing and hunting rights. This amendment would add the phrase ''gathering'' to those rights, without any definition of scope of what that means.

Lastly, I will credit the Members, the gentlelady who's sponsoring this legislation, she said last night in the Rules Committee and here just a moment ago that, notwithstanding whether this amendment would pass or not, she would be opposing the bill. I take her at her word on that. But this is a last-minute issue that had not been raised.

□ 1320

It's not necessary for us to respect and uphold the rights of tribes, and I think it's being offered by somebody, as was stated, who is just simply opposed to the bill.

So for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment. I understand the gentlelady has yielded back. I urge a ''no'' vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Minnesota will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 112–660.

Mr. HOLT. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 2(b) (page 3, line 12), strike ''shall'' and insert ''may''.

In section 2(f) (page 6, beginning line 3), strike ''RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—'', ''(1)'', and paragraph (2) relating to an exception from NEPA requirements.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 773, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, today we have before us a bill that tells the American taxpayers to take a hike—not to take a walk in the woods, but to give up their place in any decision-making, to get lost, a hike from democracy and engagement in our government—because H.R. 5544 has a provision that would bar all Americans, including Native Americans, from being provided the information about the land exchange to take place and that would bar them from participating in the democratic process of being able to voice their views about the disposition of their property.

My amendment would restore public participation in the development of this proposed land exchange by striking language that would subvert proper environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA. H.R. 5544 continues what we have seen elsewhere on this floor and on the Resources Committee that can only be called an attack on NEPA.

I wonder what my colleagues have in mind, why they have such a strong knee-jerk reaction to this bipartisan initiative that was signed into law by President Nixon, you may recall. Whatever any of my colleagues may think about the advisability of the underlying bill and the exchange that is proposed here, whatever that exchange may be, I would think my colleagues would at least want this to be done with transparency, full knowledge and public participation.

Public participation should always be of the utmost concern when planning public land projects, but it is particularly critical for the exchange that is proposed here. We aren't talking about a small land exchange. We are talking about tens of thousands of Federal acres that will be going out of Federal ownership and into State ownership for the purposes of mining and logging.

The bill doesn't tell us which parcels will be exchanged. We have no map. We really have no idea. We do know that there are 700 miles of snowmobile trails within the Superior National Forest and that there are thousands of lakes, 77 points of lake access, and 13 fishing piers. We know that hunting is allowed on all of these lands, including lands included within the boundary waters.

We also know that no fewer than 25 groups have written in opposition to

this exchange, expressing concerns about their ability to participate in what should be a public process. We also know that 2 million hunters and anglers, represented by the Minnesota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Association, oppose this bill because, in their words:

Hunters have a vested interest because we now have access to these properties—something that's never guaranteed when management begins switching hands.

Finally, we know why the State of Minnesota wants these Federal lands. They want the lands to generate receipts for their school trust through mining and logging.

So we know some things, but there is much we don't know. There is much that should be brought out to the public. This entire exchange is justified on the State's belief that it is losing $650,000 a year because it can't mine and log lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The public deserves to know more about this exchange and to have a voice in the future of these lands. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, which would ensure that the public can play a role in this exchange if the exchange is to go forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would undermine the purposes of the bill by allowing a Cabinet Secretary or even a low-level Federal bureaucrat the authority to override an act of Congress and delay this land exchange.

Let's be specific. This bill directs a land exchange of State lands for Federal forest lands. The simple result of the exchange will be that the boundaries would be State rather than Federal. The management of the lands exchanged in Minnesota will continue to be responsibly managed under State law.

Now, Mr. Chairman, under the U.S. Constitution, it is the legislative branch of government that writes our Nation's laws. It is the responsibility of the executive branch to execute the laws written by Congress. This amendment would result in giving the executive branch the ability to undermine or ignore written law. This land exchange would be subjected to years of costly red tape and bureaucratic foot-dragging. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, that has been going on for 34 years. That's why we are here today.

The priority of the gentleman from Minnesota's bill is the schoolchildren of Minnesota, but it seems the priority of the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey is more Federal red tape to protect Federal bureaucracy and more lawsuits. So I urge the defeat of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. The chairman must think that it is so inconvenient to deal with a pesky public. Whether this is congressionally mandated or comes about in any way, something of this scale, that of involving the public's land, should involve the public in a very open way in understanding what it will be and in carrying it out. That's all this says. That's all this amendment would do. It would allow the NEPA process, the environmental process that applies to so many things around this country, to apply to this important transaction.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK).

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Secretary already has the authority that the amendment is supposed to possess. That's what got us here in the first place. This amendment would undermine the purposes of the bill by giving the Secretary the option to continue the delaying and obstructing of a land exchange with the State of Minnesota. This is an issue that Minnesota and the Federal Government have been working on for over three decades under existing authorities. This amendment would only continue the status quo, so I must oppose it. Stalling the process further helps no one, least of all the schoolchildren and teachers of Minnesota.

Mr. Chairman, we've had public input for over 30 years, and that has culminated in the bipartisan State Senate File 1750 that was passed earlier this year by an overwhelming bipartisan vote in the State legislature and signed by Democrat Governor Mark Dayton. The public has spoken. The bill has the support of the people of the Eighth District of Minnesota, and it would execute a bipartisan plan passed by the Minnesota Legislature and signed by the Governor. The only groups that oppose this bill are fringe groups, many of those being from out of State.

This amendment would give the environmentalists free rein to sue the Federal Government and have attorneys' fees paid for by the taxpayers of the United States. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

In addition, we have heard a couple of times today, Where is the map? Well, here it is. Here is the map. H.R. 5544 no longer contains a direct reference to the Forest Service map because H.R. 5544 is executing a State bill, State File 1750, which does specify lands to be exchanged in section 4 of the bill.

□ 1330

Subsection 3. Priority.

An exchange of the State land under this section shall give priority to the exchanges that provide the most opportunity for revenue generation for the permanent school fund, and priority shall be given to lands within the Superior National Forest in the Mesabi Purchase Unit in St. Louis County and in the following townships of St. Louis County:

Township 59 North, Range 14 West;
Township 59 North, Range 13 West;
Township 60 North, Range 13 West;
Township 60 North, Range 12 West.

The Minnesota DNR has maps of these lands. The Forest Service has maps of these lands. Actually, they're available online.

Last year, the Forest Service prepared maps for an earlier draft of H.R. 5544, but when the State passed Senate File 1750, we changed the references in the bill from the Forest Service maps to the State-passed plan.

The reason why H.R. 5544 doesn't specify lands is because it executes the State plan, which does specify the lands. Again, the maps are available from either the Forest Service or the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CRAVAACK. I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Sir, you said that there is designated land on the other half of the exchange, and very well—the school trust lands. Can you show me a map? I know that the State talks about areas.

The CHAIR. The gentleman's time has expired, and the gentleman from Washington has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, I hear the crocodile tears for no NEPA in this process. I just remind my colleagues that when this area was designated wilderness, NEPA was not involved.

Once the land trade is made, it is subject to the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act. There is a process in which this will be carried out.

I don't support the amendment. I urge a ''no'' vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 112–660.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 2, insert after subsection (b) the following new subsection (and redesignate subsequent subsections accordingly):

(c) PROTECTING PRIVATE PROPERTY AND SMALL BUSINESSES WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO

SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST.—In determining which National Forest System land to exchange under subsection (b), the Secretary shall not include a parcel of National Forest System land in the exchange if the Secretary determines that the inclusion of the parcel or subsequent use of the parcel is likely to have a negative impact on private property, private property values, or small businesses.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 773, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chair, I rise to present an amendment that would require that as these exchanges go forward, that they would have to be done in a manner that does not hurt private property interests.

There's no doubt that when the exchanges are effected, the people in the forest areas who will acquire them will be looking to mine them, log them, and things like that. But the fact remains that there are other legitimate private property interests there, and these private property interests should be protected.

The bill introduced by my colleague from Minnesota, Representative CRAVAACK, has no protections for areas of high ecological and recreational value, risks the livelihood of small businesses that rely on the recreational tourists to survive and thrive, and risks the values of private property within the Superior National Forest.

In a region that depends upon $1.6 billion of revenue from outdoor recreation, we cannot risk our natural lands for the short-term gain of the mining industry. My amendment would simply ensure that no land would be exchanged if it would likely have a negative impact on private or small business interests.

In this House, we often hear it said we should not pick winners and losers. I agree with that. We shouldn't. Therefore, this amendment, if adopted, would protect and ensure that no land would be exchanged if it would likely have a negative impact on private property interests.

Mr. Chair, I would like you to know that the white areas here are private property. As you can see, they're interspersed in the green. As land is transferred down and exchanged, there's a lot of private land next to the forestland, and the private property interests are at risk, and the amendment, if passed, would protect them.

Many studies have found that private property and housing values decrease the closer they are to mines. Just take it from the standpoint of a small business. Many small businesses depend upon protecting the natural resources in the area. Sulfide mining, being considered in this region, can leach sulfuric acid into lakes and rivers, killing aquatic life and ruining someone's small business or fishing resort. Sulfide mining is generating significant public concern and deserves an open, transparent process of evaluation.

Mining has a role in the economy in its right place and with the right protections. But no one denies that it can harm the environment and small businesses if it is done in the wrong place and in the wrong manner.

Mr. Chairman, let me just talk about Jane Koschak. Jane is the owner of the River Point Resort and Outfitting Company located in the Superior National Forest, and she's very concerned about the impact of this bill on her small business. She says the bill will be absolutely devastating to the tourism economy. She says her own town exists on tourism, which is dependent upon clean water and clean air. She also says private property values in the area are already going down from existing drilling. Mining hurts small businesses like Jane's that cater to the anglers, the paddlers, the hikers, and the vacationers in the region.

We need greater transparency. Minnesota landowners and small businesses deserve an open and transparent process, but that's not what we're getting. The State of Minnesota has already created an open process to transfer State lands within the boundary waters. No Federal legislation is required for this land exchange to take place. We should not be waiving environmental and public comment. At the very least, if we go forward with this misguided bill, we should ensure that private property and small business is protected.

I ask you to support the Ellison amendment and oppose the bill from my colleague in Minnesota.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1½ minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is unnecessary, and it would allow the Federal bureaucracy an automatic excuse to stop implementation of this bill when it becomes law. It would provide the Forest Service with vague authorities to simply delay or outright block an act of Congress.

Does that sound familiar?

While presented as property rights protection, the plain fact is that this bill only involves the exchange of lands between State lands and State forestlands. So I want to be very clear that not one square inch of private property is included in this exchange. Again, this is only State and Federal lands.

I have to say, Mr. Chairman, on my committee, a lot of our discussion on a variety of issues talks about private property rights. When we have debate on that and when we have votes on amendments on those issues, I find it rather ironic that the party of the gentleman that is offering this amendment always tends to vote against those amendments that protect private property rights.

Once again, the net result of this amendment would be to give the Federal bureaucracy the ability to slow down carrying out this act.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chair, I only have one other speaker and we have the right to close, if the gentleman wants to use his time.

Mr. ELLISON. I appreciate the gentleman's reflection that the exchange is between State land and State land, but it's next to private property land. That's exactly the point of my amendment. If I have a business—better yet, not me, but Jane, who does, in fact, have a business—that is next to a mine that is leaching hazardous material, it will negatively impact her business.

This is not a dispute between public and private. It's a dispute between big private interests and smaller ones.

We're here in Congress to stand up for people who need a voice. I doubt these multinational mining interests need Congress to stand up for them, but the Janes who are running resorts in this forest do. We're simply asking you to adopt an amendment that will stand up for the private property rights of regular citizens who had a dream and fulfilled it of opening a resort, opening a tackle shop, doing things that are deeply rooted in Minnesota's heritage.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to yield the balance of my time to the author of this legislation, Mr. CRAVAACK of Minnesota.

□ 1340

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Chairman, because of the way this amendment is worded, I have some concerns about how it's going to affect mining and timber jobs in the new school district lands.

I yield to the gentleman to explain how he thinks the amendment would affect jobs in the Eighth District of Minnesota concerning mining and lumber.

Mr. ELLISON. If I understand the gentleman's question correctly, I think that it will negatively impact jobs.

Mr. CRAVAACK. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I would ask my colleague if he knows how much mining taxes contribute to the State of Minnesota.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ELLISON. The point of my amendment is that this bill, your bill, is going to hurt small business.

Mr. CRAVAACK. Reclaiming my time.

Mr. ELLISON. Look. I'm not going to yield to you if you won't let me answer the question.

Mr. CRAVAACK. He is out of order, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota controls the time.

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Chairman, as you can see from the most recent ''Mining Tax Guide'' from the State of Minnesota, the Eighth District of State of Minnesota contributes $79.1 million to the State of Minnesota. That is just not inclusive of the income related to taxes from jobs from the mining that will go on in the State of Minnesota.

Is the gentleman opposed to mining in Minnesota? Can he give me an example of how he has supported mining?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ELLISON. If the gentleman is going to let me answer, I will be happy to answer you.

Mr. CRAVAACK. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ELLISON. Thank you. I appreciate that. Look, the fact is what you're doing is trying to say that you're going to stand up for the big-money people, as opposed to the cumulative small business people. I think if you put the number of small business people together, your big multinational mining interests that are going to pollute their business——

Mr. CRAVAACK. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to tell my colleague how much mining and timber contributes to the school trust fund.

Mr. Chairman, in the most recent school trust fund report, it shows that mining and timber contributed $23.17 million in 2011. Now, maybe that doesn't sound like much here inside the Beltway; but I tell you what, that's a lot of money where I come from.

Does the gentleman think that schools in Minneapolis are adequately funded? I'll answer that for you, probably not. Because in North Branch, Minnesota, where I live, public schools just went to 4 days, and then we've got 40 kids in a classroom. I think our teachers and kids could use the extra funding.

Also I'm very interested right now that now the gentleman is very concerned about small business interests in the rural communities. I find that very enlightening.

I yield to the gentleman if he could tell me how a small business would be affected by this land exchange and job creation.

Mr. ELLISON. I will tell you this, about less than 1 percent of money for schools comes from trust lands. It's a very tiny percentage. I mean, so we're going to sacrifice our heritage for a multinational mining company——

Mr. CRAVAACK. Reclaiming my time, obviously the gentleman from Minnesota does not think any money going into the school trust fund is beneficial. Decisions such as these should not be made by Washington bureaucrats in D.C. They should be made by Minnesotans, and that is how we got into this mess in the first place.

The bill merely executes a bipartisan State plan signed by the Governor, State senate file 1750. We cannot trust Washington political appointees with the power to derail this land exchange at the expense of Minnesota schoolchildren and their teachers.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 112–660.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 2, strike subsection (c) (page 3, beginning line 21) and insert the following new subsection:

(c) VALUATION OF LANDS FOR EXCHANGE.—

(1) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE REQUIRED.—The fair market value of the land to be exchanged under subsection (b) shall be equal.

(2) APPRAISAL TO DETERMINE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF FEDERAL LAND.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of the National Forest System land to be conveyed under subsection (b)—

(A) in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(B) based on an appraisal that is conducted in accordance with nationally recognized appraisal standards, including the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisition and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 773, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. The amendment I am offering does one simple thing and one thing only. It ensures that this land trade is fair and protects the American taxpayers.

For every land exchange undertaken by the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Park Service, or Fish and Wildlife Service, land managers must ensure taxpayer assets are protected by requiring land appraisals based on accepted Federal standards. This House has considered six different land exchange bills in this Congress. Each and every one of them required standard appraisals for those lands, and they all passed.

But today we have a bill that defers to legislation passed by the State of Minnesota to control the examination and the value determination of Federal lands. This is not how we treat Federal assets. Whether a land exchange is undertaken through an administrative process or through legislation, we require a standard appraisal and equalization payments if the value of the lands considered for exchange are not equal.

Surely we can provide better protections to the taxpayers of this country.

The last estimate, and I will stress estimate of the value of the land in question, was nearly $100 million. Do we really want to abandon our responsibilities as stewards to Federal taxpayers and waive fair appraisal standards?

Surely we can hold Congressman CRAVAACK's legislation to the same bar and standard we required for Congressman HERGER, Congressman GOSAR, Congresswoman TSONGAS, Congressman MCKEON, Congressman AMODEI's bill and, yes, my own bill.

I understand a lot of Members on the other side of the aisle would happily turn over Federal lands to the States. In fact, that position is reflected in their party's platform. But this isn't what we're voting on today. Today we're voting on a land deal that shouldn't turn the taxpayer interests upside down.

I would urge support of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this bill is to ensure a fair exchange of lands on States in Federal areas, and there are protections that were put specifically in the bill. Of course, the big protection is that the Secretary of Agriculture, who is a Federal representative in this process, has to agree. So, I mean, you have got one party, two parties that have to agree, and one of them is Federal. Now what could be more protection than that.

Now, let me go back just a minute. We seem to have to talk about the history of this.

The valuation of the land in 1978, when this wilderness area was developed—I wasn't here, nobody here on the floor that's debating this was here at that time; but I doubt if there was a valuation given to Minnesota at that time, and now they want to come back and say, okay, we have to have a precise valuation on the Federal level.

Come on. This corrects something that was not done in 1978. This amendment simply slows down the process, which I might add, Mr. Chairman, that seems to be what the process is with all four amendments that were taken up to date, slow down the process. Thirty-four years, isn't that long enough?

This is not a good amendment. I urge rejection of it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. I thank Mr. GRIJALVA.

This is not about slowing down the process, and I know it's not the intention of the Members on the other side to assume my motivations. I know it's not their intention.

This and the amendments that I offered are because there is a process in place in Minnesota that allows for people to be at the table, for tribes to be at the table to follow the regular order to have a regular appraisal like everyone else has had, and to have a map on the floor and not start creating a wave of Federal legislation that, to my knowledge, to my knowledge, no one has asked for this legislation to have a vote on the floor today.

There is no Senate companion. There is no urgency; there is no emergency. The State of Minnesota has a process in place; and I will say, as a State legislator, there were times, yes, I didn't think we needed to move forward with the land exchange.

But the northern legislators are convinced, overwhelmingly with the Governor of Minnesota, that this land exchange needs to take place, and it should take place, and I'm not trying to slow it down. I am trying to take this bad legislation and put it aside and let the good legislation and let the regular order that the State of Minnesota has established in order to have these land exchanges move forward. That is my motivation, good legislation, not for the first time in the history of the floor of this House passing a land exchange without a map and for the first time that I've heard not use the regular Federal standard appraisal process.

It sets a bad precedent. I don't think anybody is out to do wrong by the schoolchildren of Minnesota.

□ 1350

My children attended K through higher ed in Minnesota, and I know how strapped we are for cash. And I do believe that there will be very slight amounts of dollars that will go back into school trusts, but that's going to happen whether or not we take this bad vote on this bad bill today or not.

The schoolchildren in Minnesota will be served. This land will be exchanged. The question for this Congress is: Do we do it the right way; do we do it the wrong way; do we set a bad precedent for future land exchange bills; or do we make sure that we allow a fair, open, transparent process that started in Minnesota, finishes in Minnesota?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentlelady yield?

Ms. MCCOLLUM. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Do I understand the time on the other side has expired?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman has yielded back the balance of her time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Does the gentleman from Arizona still have time?

The CHAIR. No, the gentleman from Arizona yielded the remaining time to the gentlewoman from Minnesota, and she yielded back the balance of her time.

The time is expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. That is what I was trying to get to.

I am very pleased to yield the balance of my time, again, to the author of this legislation, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK).

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 3½ minutes.

Mr. CRAVAACK. I rise in opposition to the amendment. This amendment is unnecessary and would only further serve to delay implementation of the overall bill. The valuation of the lands to be exchanged as required by Minnesota senate file 1750 requires that the lands not only be substantially equal in value, but that the valuation is done ''in a manner as agreed to between the State commissioner and the authorized representative of the United States.'' In addition, subsection (d) of H.R. 5544, on page 4, requires the survey to be satisfactory to the Secretary of Agriculture.

We have had 30 years of delay, 30 years of appraisals, 30 years of mapmaking. We don't need any more. These are the lands of the children of Minnesota, and they're entitled to them.

Mr. Chair, the State knows what the land is worth just as well as the Federal Government. We can do it for lower cost since so much of the work has already been done. The lands have been identified. Here's the map. This section right here and this section right through there.

This amendment is a stall tactic, quite frankly, to increase the administrative burden and increase costs to the State.

Subsection (d) also requires for the State to cover all costs. It is grossly unfair to ask the State to pay for an appraisal and then be made to comply with bureaucratic Federal rules in the process of valuation. The legislation leaves the Secretary ample authority to properly protect taxpayers and does not waive any applicable appraisal standards. Both H.R. 5544 and Minnesota Senate File 1750 require negotiations to be mutually agreed upon, and the lands conveyed to the State would be subject to all applicable State and local laws.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 112–660 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. HOLT of New Jersey.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. ELLISON of Minnesota.

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. GRIJALVA of Arizona.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. MCCOLLUM

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 201, noes 213, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 563]

AYES—201

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Barber
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Camp
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gibson
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern

McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NOES—213

Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Calvert
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—15

Akin
Baldwin
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Culberson
Gingrey (GA)
Herger
Hirono
Holden
Jackson (IL)
Ryan (WI)
Towns
Welch

□ 1418

Messrs. MANZULLO and BISHOP of Utah changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. PERLMUTTER, NEAL, JONES, DOLD, HANNA, DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California and RUSH changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF AMBASSADOR STEVENS AND AMERICAN PERSONNEL KILLED IN LIBYA

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BOEHNER). Last night, Americans received a jolting reminder that freedom remains under siege by forces around the globe who relish violence over free expression and terror over democracy.

The Chair asks that all present rise and observe a moment of silence in honor of Ambassador Stevens and the American personnel killed in Libya.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WOMACK). Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 177, noes 236, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 564]

AYES—177

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Barber
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOES—236

Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Costa
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble

Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—16

Akin
Baldwin
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Culberson
Gingrey (GA)
Herger
Hirono
Holden
Jackson (IL)
LaTourette
McCarthy (CA)
Ryan (WI)
Schock

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1427

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 190, noes 225, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 565]

AYES—190

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barber
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gibson
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NOES—225

Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—14

Akin
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Culberson
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey (GA)
Herger
Hirono
Holden
Jackson (IL)
McCarthy (CA)
Myrick
Ryan (WI)

□ 1431

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 191, noes 223, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 566]

AYES—191

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barber
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bilbray
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibson
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre

McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOES—223

Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—15

Akin
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Culberson
Fortenberry
Gingrey (GA)
Herger
Hirono
Holden
Jackson (IL)
Landry
McCarthy (CA)
Ryan (WI)
West

□ 1435

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WOODALL). Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) having assumed the chair, Mr. WOODALL, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5544) to authorize and expedite a land exchange involving National Forest System land in the Laurentian District of the Superior National Forest and certain other National Forest System land in the State of Minnesota that has limited recreational and conservation resources and lands owned by the State of Minnesota in trust for the public school system that are largely scattered in checkerboard fashion within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and have important recreational, scenic, and conservation resources, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 773, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

□ 1440

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. ELLISON. I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. ELLISON. I am opposed to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Ellison moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5544 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of section 2(b) (page 3, line 20, of the Rules Committee print), insert the following new sentence: ''The Secretary may not include in the exchange under this section any National Forest System land in the State that, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is used for hunting, fishing, or motorized recreation, including snowmobiling in season.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, this final amendment to the bill, if adopted, will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. This bill will immediately be voted upon on final passage as amended.

Mr. Speaker, this bill that we're arguing about right now actually is not necessary. The Minnesota State legislature has already decided that in one of the most beautiful wildernesses in our country, the Boundary Waters, that there will be about 86,000 acres transferred out of there into the Superior National Forest. The land will be moved from this wilderness area into the Superior National Forest, and the proceeds will be used to benefit Minnesota schoolchildren.

What this bill actually does is it doesn't actually facilitate the transfer. The Minnesota State legislature has handled that. What it does is it allows the circumvention of the regular process so that Minnesotans who are part of the business community, the school community, the local community, who are part of the recreational community, who have a stake in this thing, that they will be cut out of the deal. They won't be able to have the transparency that is necessary.

Without a doubt, the land that will be transferred will be transferred for the purpose of commercial exploitation, most likely mining. And mining, as you know, may have commercial importance and commercial benefit, but it is a dirty business. It does affect the businesses that are around it.

This bill is designed to help and will help the mining and the timber industry in northern Minnesota. But as we go about this process, we can at least do what we can to make sure that as the transfer takes place, that the outdoor recreational businesses, which are about $1.6 billion in northeastern Minnesota, do not get sacrificed in the process.

The Superior National Forest and Chippewa National Forest and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness make up Minnesota's premiere outdoor recreation area. They're just beautiful. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, there's been many a time when I've led young people up to the Boundary Waters so they can get out of the urban environment, into the natural wilderness, and experience what I believe is God's country.

As we effect this change and these land swaps are taking place, and there's no real process—we're bypassing it through this bill—to have real transparency, the interests of the recreational industry, the people who fish, the people who paddle, the people who hunt, and the businesses that supply them are at stake.

My amendment would simply protect the land in these forests currently used for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, bird watching, and all sorts of other activities, and the commercial interests associated with allowing them to do that.

The land that we're talking about has very high recreational value. The

Chippewa and Superior National Forest provide habitat for hunting and game like grouse, deer, or waterfowl. They contain some of the Nation's best fishing lakes, filled with trout, walleye, bass, and pike. I encourage all of you to come and visit. They attract 250,000 visitors every year, Americans of all kinds, but even international visitors, but mostly Minnesotans right from the area and from the Twin Cities.

The fact is the Superior National Forest is the eighth-most visited in the entire National Forest system. They drive, as I mentioned already, Mr. Speaker, $1.6 billion in tourism and recreation industry in northeastern Minnesota. Thousands of small businesses rely on the National Forest, including everything from resorts, to hunting outfitters, to local restaurants and shops.

I might add, there are almost—in fact, I would say there are no—restaurants or outfitters who name their business after the sulfide mines. No. They call themselves the Boundary Waters Cafe. They name themselves after the beauty and the natural wonder in the area.

This bill puts recreation at risk and the industry that supports it. This bill provides no protection for lands with high recreational value. In fact, it explicitly says that land acquired by the State should be used first for revenue-generating activities, such as mining and logging. This is why hunting and angling groups in Minnesota oppose the bill, including the Minnesota Conservation Foundation, Minnesota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and the Minnesota division of the Izaac Walton League.

What's more, Mr. Speaker, the bill does not even identify which lands will be exchanged. We don't even know in this map which private property interests will be affected.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, apparently the author of the motion to recommit did not read the underlying bill because what he seeks to do is say you can't exchange land that is open to essentially multiple use, recreational activities. On section 2 of page 5, very specifically in the bill, it says that these activities shall be allowed.

I don't know exactly what point the gentleman is trying to make by offering this motion to recommit, unless it is a political statement of some sort. Even if it's a political statement, I have to say, Mr. Speaker, it falls short in that regard.

Why do I say that? Because last spring, specifically on April 17, we had a bill that this body considered on the floor, H.R. 4089, authored by our colleague from Michigan, Mr. BENISHEK, called the Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012. The essence of that bill was to allow hunting and recreation on Federal lands, and yet the author of the motion to recommit is coming down here saying we should have multiple use on this forest, but he voted against the bill, H.R. 4089, this spring.

□ 1450

I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, the crocodile tears I hear or see from the other side is overwhelming to me. This motion to recommit ought to be defeated. The land exchange that is authored by our colleague from Minnesota rights a wrong that was wrongly made 34 years ago.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the motion to recommit and ''yes'' on passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 183, noes 233, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 567]

AYES—183

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barber
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOES—233

Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman

Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—13

Akin
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Culberson
Gingrey (GA)
Herger
Hirono
Holden
Jackson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Moran
Ryan (WI)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1505

Mr. YARMUTH changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 225, noes 189, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 568]

AYES—225

Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—189

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barber
Bartlett
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
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Clay
Cleaver
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Cohen
Connolly (VA)
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Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibson
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Hayworth
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Pelosi
Perlmutter
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Pingree (ME)
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Price (NC)
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Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
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Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
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Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—15

Akin
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Chandler
Culberson
Gingrey (GA)
Herger
Hirono
Holden
Jackson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Moran
Ryan (WI)
Whitfield

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1512

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 773, I call up the bill (H.R. 5949) to extend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 for five years, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Pursuant to House Resolution 773, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary printed in the bill is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5949

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''FISA Amendments Act Reauthorization Act of 2012''.

SEC. 2. FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 403(b) of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–261; 122 Stat. 2474) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''December 31, 2012'' and inserting ''December 31, 2017''; and

(2) in paragraph (2) in the material preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''December 31, 2012'' and inserting ''December 31, 2017''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 404(b)(1) of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–261; 122 Stat. 2476) is amended by striking ''DECEMBER 31, 2012'' and inserting ''DECEMBER 31, 2017''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5949, as amended, and currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, America and its allies continue to face national security threats from foreign nations, spies, and terrorist organizations. Our national security agencies must be able to conduct surveillance of foreign terrorists and others so we can stop them before they disable our defenses, carry out a plot against our country, or kill innocent Americans.

In 1978, Congress enacted the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to provide procedures for the domestic collection of foreign intelligence. To protect Americans' civil liberties, FISA created Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Courts comprised of sitting Federal court judges.

□ 1520

If the government needs to collect domestic information for national security purposes, it must first request permission from a FISA judge. This is limited to domestic information. FISA was never intended to apply to the collection of information from non-U.S. persons in foreign countries.

But advances in technology over the last 40 years have changed how overseas communications are transmitted. In 2006, then-Director of National Intelligence, Admiral Mike McConnell, stated that the intelligence community was not collecting approximately two-thirds of the foreign intelligence information that it collected prior to legal interpretations that required the government to obtain individualized FISA court orders for overseas surveillance. To solve the problem, in 2008, Congress passed the FISA Amendments Act to reaffirm our longstanding intent that a court order is not required when a non-U.S. person outside the U.S. is targeted. The act continues the authority to collect intelligence from foreign targets located outside the United States.

The FISA Amendments Act both strengthens our national security and expands civil liberties protections for all Americans. The act requires an individualized court order for the government to target an American anywhere in the world. Under the FISA Amendments Act, the government cannot conduct any surveillance overseas without authorization. The government cannot target individuals unless there is a reasonable belief they are not in the United States, which the government must try to ascertain.

The government cannot intentionally acquire communications when the sender and recipient are both in the United States without an individualized court order from a FISA judge. The government cannot reverse-target individuals overseas in order to monitor those in the United States. This means that the government cannot target a U.S. person simply by monitoring a non-U.S. person that the U.S. person is talking to. And for the first time in history, the government must obtain an individualized court order from the FISA court to target Americans outside the United States.

Foreign surveillance under the FISA Amendments Act is subject to extensive oversight by the administration and Congress. Every 60 days, Justice Department national security officials and the Director of National Intelligence conduct onsite reviews of surveillance conducted pursuant to the FISA Amendments Act. In addition, the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence conduct detailed assessments of compliance with court-approved targeting and minimization procedures and provide these amendments to Congress twice a year.

The administration also is required to submit to the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees a copy of any FISA court order opinion or decision. It must also submit the accompanying pleadings, briefs, and other memoranda of law from national security officials within the intelligence community that relate to a significant construction or interpretation of any provision of FISA.

This law will expire at the end of this year unless Congress reauthorizes it. President Obama has identified reauthorization of the FISA Amendments Act as the top legislative priority of the intelligence community and requests Congress to extend the law for 5 years. H.R. 5949 is a bipartisan piece of legislation to do just that, extend the FISA Amendments Act to December 31, 2017.

Foreign terrorists continue to search for new ways to attack America. Foreign nations continue to spy on America, to plot cyberattacks, and attempt to steal sensitive information from our military and private sector industries. They are committed to the destruction of our country, and their methods of communication are constantly evolving.

We have a solemn responsibility to ensure that the intelligence community can gather the information it needs to protect our country and protect our citizens. This bipartisan bill ensures that our country will be able to identify and prevent threats to our national security without sacrificing the civil liberties of American citizens.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on our side, I would begin our discussion by yielding 3 minutes to the distinguished senior member of Judiciary, ranking member of Immigration, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to reject this bill.

The surveillance bill raises several serious constitutional and civil liberties issues that Congress needs to address and has not addressed in this bill, and I'd like to discuss just one of those.

Congress should prohibit the Federal Government from intentionally searching for information on a U.S. person in a data pool amassed lawfully under section 702 of FISA—should such a data ever be amassed—unless the searching official has a warrant.

Now, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 does not make clear that the government must obtain a warrant prior to searching for information acquired incidentally on a U.S. person in a large pool of data that the government has already lawfully obtained under section 702, should such a data pool ever be amassed. Instead, the information about the U.S. person in such a situation is subject to minimization procedures adopted by the Attorney General, and that must be approved by the FISA court, but that does not explicitly include a warrant requirement, which I think the Constitution requires.

The prohibition on reverse-targeting—where the government deliberately targets a non-U.S. person for the purpose of acquiring information about the U.S. person at the other end of the line—is not a substitute for the warrant requirement to search a database for U.S. persons, should such a database ever be amassed under section 702. Minimization procedures are not a substitute for a warrant in such a case.

Now, I think that the government needs to comply with the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution all the time. I think that the privacy of Americans should not be subject to the lower standard of minimization procedures. That's not in the Constitution. And I think, also, that when we think that we should trade the protections that our Founding Fathers devised for us in the United States Constitution in the effort to buy safety, we're mistaken. We can be safe while still complying with the Constitution of the United States.

I'm mindful that we began this Congress reading most of the United States Constitution on the floor of this House. It's ironic, indeed, that we should be ending this Congress with a bill that does violation to that very body.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN), who is the chairman of the Administration Committee here in the House, a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, and a former attorney general of California.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the extension of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008.

I would just have to say this is critical to the protection of the American people. With the events over the last couple of days, we need not be reminded of this solemn responsibility 1 day after the 11th anniversary of 9/11.

If you will recall, one of the main points made by the 9/11 Commission in

their after-action report was that we, as a Nation, had not done enough—that is, the Government of the United States had not done enough—to connect the dots to warn us sufficiently to protect against the attack which caused the death of over 3,000 on our homeland. In order to connect the dots—that is, the items of information, the intelligence—you have to have the dots, you have to have the intelligence. That's precisely what the extension of these amendments will allow us to do.

But initially, it's important to understand from the outset of this debate what this legislation would do as well as what it does not do.

□ 1530

We are seeking to address the essential need for us to be able to monitor communications by terrorists and other foreign adversaries located outside the United States. We're not debating the PATRIOT Act here. We're not talking about national security letters. We're not talking about those things that are directed at Americans.

The annual certification procedures provided under the FISA Amendments Act do not allow the targeting of Americans outside the United States. Thus, if an American is targeted anywhere in the world, or if a person is targeted within the United States, an individualized court order is required.

In cases involving a foreign terrorist outside the United States, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court approves annual certifications submitted by the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence. This is a court made up of article III judges, judges with lifetime appointments, with the independence that was accorded them under the Constitution.

And I would remind my colleagues that the appellate review, the appellate division of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, is also comprised of article III judges.

It is important to note we're not providing for warrantless surveillance here. In fact, the FISA Amendments Act has enhanced the statutory protections afforded to U.S. persons under the law. Because it was the first time, under these amendments that we wish to extend, we required an individual FISA court order to conduct overseas intelligence collections on U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Even if they're overseas, we now require that. It was not required by statute before that.

Before that, the Attorney General approved such collections against U.S. persons outside the U.S., pursuant to an executive order of the President. We all know that executive orders of the President can be changed by a President while in office, or a succeeding President.

I would submit that if you are concerned about civil liberties, and I assume everybody in this debate is, returning to the good old days prior to the enactment of the FISA Amendments Act is not a step forward for civil liberties.

It should also be understood that we're not seeking to extend the underlying Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in its entirety. Today we're attempting to achieve the rather modest purpose of the 2008 amendments. Again, court approval of annual certification by the DNI, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Attorney General, identifying categories of foreign intelligence agents outside the United States is required. An individualized court order is required in other cases.

The legislative history of FISA is instructive. The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence report that accompanied FISA in the initial act in 1978 clearly expressed Congress' intent to exclude overseas intelligence activities from the reach of FISA. These were the words of that report:

> The committee has explored the feasibility of broadening this legislation to apply overseas, but has concluded that certain problems and unique characteristics involved in overseas surveillance preclude the simple extension of this bill to overseas surveillance.

In other words, overseas surveillance was never the focus of the 1978 act. Rather, it focused on domestic surveillance of persons located within the United States to ensure that there were protections in that regard.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I will yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. The FISA Amendments Act under consideration here today requires an individualized court order in cases where an American is the target, no matter where they may be located.

Here's the reason why this is important. It is the change in communications, the nature of communications that required us to do the amendments. If we fail to pass this, we will, as former DNI Director McConnell stated, we will lose two-thirds of those dots, those bits of information, the intelligence that we need to connect to protect us. We will put in very much manner the country at risk.

If you look at a simple risk analysis, you have to do threat, you have to do vulnerability, you have to do consequence. We can figure out what the vulnerability is by our inspection of our own resources and infrastructure. We can figure out what the consequences are.

What we have to have, in order to figure out the threat, is a means of collecting intelligence. We have to pass this law, a bipartisan law.

I recall being here and having the former Speaker of the House spend, I think, 7 minutes arguing on behalf of this, and the gentleman who is Number two on the Democratic side as well.

It has never been partisan. Hopefully, we can have bipartisan support expressed in the vote for these amendments.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds to let my distinguished colleague and friend from California know that we're in complete agreement with most of what he said, except that all we want to do is limit this to a 3-year measure instead of 5 years. Now, there's a compromise you can't turn away from.

At this point I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished senior member from the Judiciary Committee, JERRY NADLER.

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the FISA Amendments Act of 2012. If we had had an opportunity to evaluate this law based on experience with it, and to consider some amendments and alternatives, this opposition would not be necessary. But the Republican majority has, once again, told the Members of this House and the American people that it's ''my way or the highway.''

While it is certainly appropriate for our government to gather foreign intelligence, and while some degree of secrecy is obviously necessary, it is also vital in a free society that we limit government, protect the constitutional rights of Americans here and abroad, and limit warrantless spying to genuine foreign intelligence.

Unfortunately, we have seen repeatedly how even the very minimal restraints Congress put on FISA have been violated. We should address those abuses. Congress has an obligation to exert more control over spy agencies than simply to give them a blank check for another 5 years.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) had an amendment that would have shortened the sunset by 2 years, but we won't even have a chance to consider it, perhaps because some of our Republican colleagues might also want to support such an amendment. As a result, we will not revisit the law until after the end of the next presidential term.

And if we had cut shorter this extension, we could do what we should have done but haven't: hold hearings, look into how the law is operating, and decide what amendments and protections are necessary to make sure it operates right so that we can collect the intelligence without violating the constitutional rights of Americans.

I had an amendment that would have required the Attorney General to make publicly available a summary of each decision of the FISA court and the FISA court of review that includes a significant construction of section 702, which allows warrantless surveillance, with appropriate security redactions and editing.

Many American citizens and others who have nothing to do with foreign intelligence gathering are caught up in this surveillance, and government has an obligation to protect their rights. The FISA court is supposed to do that, and we need to ensure that the law and the courts are working.

Disclosure of classified information is not needed to know whether the court performs meaningful oversight of

the executive branch, applies minimization standards correctly, and whether or not we ought to amend the law.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) said, ''rather than playing the numbers game, either with the actual targets or the people who are incidentally surveilled, perhaps decisions of the FISA court, particularly the review of the FISA court, appropriately redacted, would be able to give us the answer to that question. I have always been one that favored disclosure.''

The gentleman from Wisconsin is right. If the FISA court is just a rubberstamp of the executive branch, we and the public should know that. And if the court really does provide meaningful oversight and meaningful limitations on the executive branch, we and the public should know that too.

But we won't get to discover that or to debate that. Failure to do so is a dereliction of our constitutional duty to protect the constitutional rights of American citizens and the betrayal of our liberties.

I urge my colleagues to reject this legislation and demand that we properly consider this very important issue by a somewhat shorter extension and by proper hearings and examination of the limitations and the workings of this law.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

□ 1540

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I want to thank the chairman for yielding to a contrary point of view.

Mr. Speaker, FISA allows the government to target foreign nationals and to intercept their communications, even those with American citizens, without a warrant, as required by the Fourth Amendment.

Now, we're told don't worry. The law requires that any irrelevant information collected in this manner be disregarded. Well, here is the problem. The enforcement of this provision is, itself, shrouded in secrecy, making the potential for abuse substantial and any remedy unlikely. Secret courts and warrantless surveillance are not compatible with a free society or the English common law or the American Constitution.

We are told FISA is necessary to stop terrorist plots and that this protection trumps privacy or due process concerns. Well, Ben Franklin answered that argument years ago when he warned us that those who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. In fact, America's security is far better assured as a thriving free society in a world that respects her strengths and fears her just vengeance.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 20 seconds to commend the statement by the gentleman from California in this regard. Also, on the subject of transparency, two Senators—one from Oregon, the other from Colorado—asked the Director of National Intelligence how many Americans are affected by this law.

The answer: We don't know.

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

Mr. CONYERS. I yield myself 10 more seconds.

Now, we don't know if he meant that he didn't want to tell us that he knew or that he honestly didn't know. Either response or explanation is inadequate.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from Houston, Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join the chairman of the full committee and the ranking member of the full committee in this vigorous debate on the Constitution. I am also delighted that the ranking member has indicated, by his reference to the previous speaker, that this is a bipartisan challenge and question about the reauthorization. This does not have a partisan place. It does have a place in the Constitution.

As I do this, might I take just a moment, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, just to acknowledge the loss of our Americans who fell in Libya—Ambassador Stevens and those who were securing him. It is a recognition that we live in a difficult world; but one of the distinctive aspects of America is that we live in a free country, that we are willing to accept the distinctions and differences of all people and that we respect the privacy and the Fourth Amendment.

So I might refresh my fellow colleagues as to what FISA does from the very beginning. It is electronic surveillance, physical searches, the installation and use of pen registers and trap-and-trace devices, and demands for the production of physical items. Although FISA is designed for intelligence gathering and not for the collection of criminal evidence, the law applies to activity to which a Fourth Amendment warrant requirement would apply if they were conducted in a criminal investigation. Members need to understand there are questions of the Fourth Amendment right here. So what those of us who have a concern on this reauthorization are asking for has simple premise:

We want to join with Congressman CONYERS and his simple amendment that allows for greater congressional oversight and the protection of the Fourth Amendment as it relates to Americans by shortening the reauthorization to 2015 from 2017. It intrudes the Congress properly in oversight. In addition, there should be more transparency in the surveillance program, such as requiring the creation of unclassified versions of the intelligence assessments of the surveillance program, requiring the creation of unclassified summaries.

I introduced a simple amendment. We all have respect for the Inspector General's office. That is one independent force of our agencies that most Members of Congress will not challenge. My amendment would require a report by the Inspector General of the Department of Justice and the Inspector General of the intelligence community on the implementation of the surveillance program under the FISA Amendments Act of 2008.

Now, let me try to find out what the horrifically liberal groups are that are concerned about this. What about the American Library Association? the Association of Research Libraries? the very well-respected Brennan Center for Justice? the Center for Democracy & Technology? the OpenTheGovernment .org?

What we are simply saying today—and we hope our colleagues will listen on both sides of the aisle—is that, yes, we can reauthorize this legislation but that, no, we cannot abdicate the questions of congressional oversight. Today, we had a hearing on the abuse of power. The only issue in abuse of power is whether or not we respect the three branches of government. That is the argument we are making today. Do you respect the three branches of government—the people's House, who represent the people, who by themselves cannot defend themselves against this extensive reauthorization?

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

Mr. CONYERS. I yield the gentlelady 30 more seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. In the course of this particular legislation, we had to contend with such things as warrantless wiretapping. Again, as I indicated, the need for the intruding of the Congress is a respect of the liberties which we want to protect.

So I would ask my colleagues to yield to transparency, to yield to a shorter extension. Make this bill stand on its own two feet juxtaposed to the Constitution. While we mourn those who have fallen, we respect that this is a free country. Today, we are not acting on that freedom by giving up the congressional oversight that is necessary. I ask my colleagues to reject the present form of this bill. I beg the Senate to look more readily at a shorter extension and more transparency.

I rise in opposition to the FISA Amendments Act of 2008. I believe that although we had a chance to discuss this reauthorization in the Judiciary Committee, the full import of this bill is too broad and more debate and consideration is necessary. The fact is not lost on me that this is the 11th year following the attacks of 9–11.

I open my statement with a quote from one of my heroines, and a trailblazer on so many levels, Barbara Jordan, who said: "What the people want is very simple—they want an America as good as its promise."

Over the past year, Senate and House Democrats have worked with their Republican counterparts, the Administration, the intelligence community, and privacy advocates to

develop proposals for amendments to FISA that would give the intelligence community the flexibility it needs to safeguard our nation, while also providing strong protections for civil liberties. A proper balancing is America—as good as its promise.

And in-keeping with the notion of balance, I offered an amendment during the Judiciary Committee Markup of this legislation which simply asked for a report on the implementation of the amendments made by the FISA Amendments Act of 2008. My amendment simply requested that the report include an assessment of the impact of Section 702 of the FISA on the privacy of persons inside the United States. Even with court-approved targeting and minimization procedures in place, the government can and does intercept the communications of U.S. citizens.

It does so without a particularized warrant or a showing of probable cause. This approach to electronic surveillance raises concerns under the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable searches, warrantless eavesdropping, and the use of ''general warrants.''

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides a right ''of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures.'' Many of the government activities discussed in this report have the potential to constitute a search as that term is defined in Fourth Amendment jurisprudence.

Namely, government action constitutes a search when it intrudes upon a person's ''reasonable expectation of privacy,'' which requires both that an ''individual manifested a subjective expectation of privacy in the searched object'' and that ''society is willing to recognize that expectation as reasonable.''

The Fourth Amendment and its protections go back to our founding—the ability of the American Patriots to resist unwarranted searches and seizures by the British is inculcated in the American psyche.

Thus, the Fourth Amendment ultimately limits the government's ability to conduct a range of activities, such as physical searches of homes or offices and listening to phone conversations. As a general rule, the Fourth Amendment requires the government to demonstrate ''probable cause'' and obtain a warrant (unless a recognized warrant exception applies) before conducting a search.

This rule applies most clearly in criminal investigations. For example, an officer conducting a criminal investigation typically may not search a person's belongings without first obtaining a warrant that describes the property for which sufficient evidence justifies a search.

The extent to which the Fourth Amendment warrant requirement applies to the government's collection of information for intelligence gathering and other purposes unrelated to criminal investigations is unclear. Although the surveillance of wire or oral communications for criminal law enforcement purposes was held to be subject to the warrant requirement of the Fourth Amendment in 1967, neither the Supreme Court nor Congress sought to regulate the use of such surveillance for national security purposes at that time.

Several years later, the Supreme Court invalidated warrantless electronic surveillance of domestic organizations for national security purposes, but indicated that its conclusion might differ if the electronic surveillance targeted foreign powers or their agents. A lower court has since upheld the statutory scheme governing the gathering of foreign intelligence information against a Fourth Amendment challenge, despite an assumption that orders issued pursuant to the statute might not constitute ''warrants'' for Fourth Amendment purposes.

The Supreme Court has not yet directly addressed the issue. However, even if the warrant requirement was found not to apply to searches for foreign intelligence or national security purposes, such searches would presumably be subject to the general Fourth Amendment ''reasonableness'' test.

In the context of national security, the contours of the Fourth Amendment are necessarily narrowed but not abandoned altogether. The march toward a Big Brother State begins when the people's rights to privacy and to be free from surveillance are surrendered in toto. All we have to do is look at the recent Jones decision which concerned a purely domestic case in which law enforcement took advantage of high-tech tools to follow a suspected drug dealer. A conservative Roberts Court voted 9–0 to invalidate this search.

It is rare for liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans to agree on much of anything these days, but I am sure that many of my colleagues on the other side would find untargeted procedures under FISA unlawful and thereby unconstitutional. Homeland security is not a Democratic or a Republican issue, it is not a House or Senate issue; it is an issue for all Americans—all of us need to be secure in our homes, secure in our thoughts, and secure in our communications.

It is widely known that the Obama Administration would like a clean, five year reauthorization of the FISA Amendments Act, consistent with the approach taken by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence this spring. I would also note that there were two voices of dissent in the Senate committee's proceedings, Senators WYDEN and UDALL who have been champions of national security, privacy, and civil liberties—which are not mutually exclusive.

The FISA Amendments Act of 2008 was designed to provide critically important authority for the U.S. Intelligence Community to acquire foreign intelligence information by targeting foreign persons reasonably believed to be outside of the United States. However, our experts now tell us that there are serious issues with targeting procedures, disclosure of basic information and there is a lack of strong rules on how the information gathered can be used.

''Reverse targeting,'' a concept well known to members of this Committee but not so well understood by those less steeped in the arcana of electronic surveillance, is the practice where the government targets foreigners without a warrant while its actual purpose is to collect information on certain U.S. persons.

One of the major concerns that libertarians and classical conservatives, as well as progressives and civil liberties organizations, had with the ill-conceived and now expired Protect America Act of 2007, was that the understandable temptation of national security agencies to engage in reverse targeting is difficult to resist in the absence of strong safeguards to prevent such unauthorized and blanket snooping.

Although Section 1881 of the FISA Amendments Act statutorily forbids such reverse targeting, it is a lingering concern of many civil libertarians which I share.

No doubt there are instances where it may be necessary to target persons within and outside the United States in order to address threats but Congress has made it clear that these exigencies must be subject to review at some point and time.

On the issue of targeting procedures, they were designed to ensure that only people reasonably believed to be outside of the U.S. would be targeted. However, in reality quite the contrary has taken place. There has been bulk collection of information without any targets whatsoever. Ensure transparency by conducting as much public oversight as possible, including releasing basic information about the program, such as the type of information collected and how many Americans and people in the U.S. it has affected.

It is also critical that Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court opinions and administration interpretations of its authority to collect and use information under the FISA Amendment Act (FAA) become part of the public record and congressional debate.

On the issue of disclosure, there has been a lack of transparency on what type of information is being gathered, who is being picked up and what rights of Americans have been violated.

We must strike a balance between what constitutes ''classified'' information, and other compelling facts, disclosure of which do not threaten national security.

On the issue of rules, there has been a lack of rules that clearly define how the information is being used. The key is to amend the FISA Amendment Act to ensure that information collected under those programs can be used only in the narrowest of circumstances. The FAA's minimization procedures should be amended to ensure that this foreign intelligence warrantless surveillance program doesn't allow information to be repurposed for other government uses.

I understand that there must be a way for the intelligence community to gather vast amounts of information in a manner that makes sense. However, after carefully reviewing these proposals but suffice to say, I am still disturbed about certain aspects of the FISA Amendments of 2008. This Act was not designed for an overreach of power. It was designed to for the intelligence community to conduct meaningful information overseas.

Nearly two centuries ago, Alexis DeTocqueville, who remains the most astute student of American democracy, observed that the reason democracies invariably prevail in any martial conflict is because democracy is the governmental form that best rewards and encourages those traits that are indispensable to martial success: initiative, innovation, resourcefulness, and courage.

Thus, the way forward to victory in the War on Terror is for this country to redouble its commitment to the Bill of Rights and the democratic values which every American will risk his or her life to defend. It is only by preserving our attachment to these cherished values that America will remain forever the home of the free, the land of the brave, and the country we love. It is not easy for me or any Member of this House to go against the President's wishes on a matter of national security but I am convinced that more debate is necessary, and more consideration of what the FISA Amendments mean to national security and civil liberties.

We are in the throes of a national election for which the candidates have labored for over two years and the American people have seen, for better or worse, what they are about. Why so long: because that is Democracy. And civil liberties, Mr. Speaker, are the essence of the stew of our American Democracy.

I hope that Congress can maintain our oversight function to ensure that law enforcement is well aware of their limitations of surveillance balanced by a strong commitment to protecting this great nation from future harm, and limiting the reauthorization to 2015.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY), who is a particularly active member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for your leadership on this and a host of other issues on the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Speaker, this week has provided tragic reminders that the world is a dangerous place. We are targets even from people we have helped in the past—with lethal consequences because we represent freedom, liberty and tolerance even among those with whom we disagree.

Each of us is asked when we go back home to our districts, Can Congress agree on anything? Is there anything that rises above politics anymore? Many of us would like to answer yes. We'd like to tell the people we work for that, yes, on issues of national security and protecting this country, yes, we can come together. We are capable of putting down talking points and red herrings and straw arguments and of picking up something called responsibility.

To say that this reauthorization has bipartisan support is an understatement. This bill passed unanimously in the House Intelligence Committee. For those in shock back home, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to repeat that: this bill passed unanimously. All Democrats, all Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee with access to the most information, not a single ''no'' vote.

President Bush supported this. Mr. Obama supports this. National security experts support this. Law enforcement officials support it. Our colleagues who served in the FBI and those who are Federal prosecutors and in the military support it. The Democrat-led House passed this bill in 2008 with former Speaker PELOSI giving a glowing speech extolling the virtues of the underlying bill and excoriating her colleagues about the necessity of passing.

All of this happened, Mr. Speaker, because intelligence is the lifeblood of our ability to defend ourselves. It happened because this bill has nothing to do with Americans on American soil. It passed because this provides protections for Americans who are traveling abroad. It passed because there is ample oversight. It passed because it has the needed checks and balances between the legislative branch and the executive branch and the judicial branch.

So why the opposition? How can you explain supporting something when Ms. PELOSI had the gavel, but you can't support it when Mr. BOEHNER has the gavel?

What I want to do, Mr. Speaker, just for today is: let's put down the red herrings, and let's put down the straw arguments and the misrepresentations. This bill doesn't implicate the Bill of Rights anymore than it implicates any other part of our Constitution—unless you think that foreign nationals who are on foreign land fall within the protections of the United States Constitution, and that is an absurd argument.

□ 1550

Foreign nationals in foreign lands, do they have the right to vote? Do they assert states' rights under the 10th Amendment? Can they claim cruel and unusual punishment? Go to Iran. If you're an Iranian, you go to Iran and assert your Fifth Amendment right to Miranda or your Sixth Amendment right to counsel and see what happens. Yet we're to believe that the Fourth Amendment applies to the entire world? It's absurd.

Mr. Speaker, I'm almost out of time, but I do want to say from the bottom of my heart—what's left of it after having been a prosecutor for 16 years—I want to say this.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. GOWDY. I believe you were with us, Mr. Speaker. I believe all of our colleagues were with us on the steps of the Capitol. We came together to remember 9/11 and what we lost and what we still grieve for as a Nation, Mr. Speaker, what we found as a Nation in the aftermath of 9/11. Republicans stood with Democrats on this, the steps of the people's House, and conservatives stood with progressives and moderates, and libertarians beside us. We were just Americans. That was enough on Tuesday. We were united. We were just Americans.

Even for just one fleeting moment, in our desire to honor, protect, and defend, if we can come together, Mr. Speaker, to remember 9/11, surely we can come together to prevent another one.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, no one respects the gentleman from South Carolina more than I do, but I should advise him that it is incorrect to say that members of the Intelligence Committee didn't support my amendment to shorten the sunset period. I have the names of two of them in front of me right now. I also would advise him that the authority unquestionably affects United States persons, citizens on American soil, that their communications are regularly intercepted, and that would, I think, allow him to join in with some of the rationale for the resistance to this measure as it appears right now.

It's in that spirit that I point out to him that, with the lack of transparency and no oversight, the length of the measure is too long, and that this is being brought up under a closed rule was part of our objections. I think they're in good faith.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Ranking Member.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5949, which, without benefit of one oversight hearing by the full Judiciary Committee during the 112th Congress, wants to, for 5 long years, reauthorize expiring provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act without important modifications that are necessary to safeguard the civil liberties and the privacy rights of American citizens.

Although H.R. 5949 is designed to defend the United States against international terrorism and other threats, it has been reported that FISA has resulted in the illegal surveillance of untold numbers of American citizens through data accumulation, also known as overcollection of voice and data communications. Overcollection occurs when the voice and data of American citizens is collected incidentally to the collection of communications of foreigners.

What happens to the data and voice communications of Americans that is incidentally collected without a warrant? What happens to it? What happens to the private voice and data of Americans when it's minimized? These are critical questions, and they deserve critical answers. But as I've said, we've not had one oversight hearing in the full Judiciary Committee on this issue. We've just simply had a markup of this reauthorization bill.

These, and other questions, deserve answers. The Fourth Amendment would ordinarily protect the communications of American citizens. It prohibits unreasonable and warrantless searches and seizures of the communications of American citizens, including warrantless eavesdropping and snooping. But under H.R. 5949, no warrant or showing of probable cause exists where information is overcollected.

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

Mr. CONYERS. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. In 2009, The New York Times described the practice of overcollection as significant and systemic.

Any counterterrorism measure must have a solid constitutional footing and respect the privacy and the civil liberties of American citizens. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to vote against this 5-year reauthorization.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we're prepared to close on this side, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield 3 minutes to my good friend from Ohio, DENNIS KUCINICH.

Mr. KUCINICH. Thank you very much, Mr. CONYERS.

To my friends on the other side of the aisle who have expressed passion about passing this, you're good Americans, and I respect your position. I respectfully disagree.

We have to defend our country from attacks on the outside. I voted, along with other Members of this Congress, right after 9/11, for the United States to defend itself. But it's equally important that we not lose our freedoms and our constitutional protections while we're engaged in that defense. We take an oath not only to defend the Constitution, but we have to keep in mind that that oath and that Constitution is really part of America's first line of defense.

Think of what it's like to make a phone call, any one of us right now. We make a phone call—even from this Capitol—to call a friend overseas, start talking about matters relating to what's happening in America, what's happening in the world. The way this law is written, without changes, those phone calls could be intercepted. They cannot only be intercepted, but they can be downloaded, transcribed, and stored for future use by the government. I have a problem with that. It's a great concern. What happens is that everyone then becomes suspect when Big Brother is listening.

I don't think that government should have the right to listen in to people's phone calls unless there's a warrant. You have to have probable cause. That's what the Fourth Amendment is about. This bill doesn't have those protections. It extends government's authority to conduct surveillance of persons reasonably believed to be outside the United States for 5 years, and there is a blanket extension, which is an abdication of Congress' constitutional obligation to protect and defend the Constitution and to protect the civil liberties of all Americans.

Given the information we know about our government's past abuse of surveillance authorities, if we pass this bill without any changes to ensure adequate congressional oversight and transparency, we're losing an opportunity.

Since the amended FISA Act passed in 2008, the government has released very little information on how it uses the powers granted under this act. As the Electronic Frontier Foundation recently pointed out, nobody in the government is willing to answer questions about how many Americans' phone calls or emails have been or are being collected and read without a warrant under the authority of the FISA Amendments Act. So Big Brother is not accountable. Even more disturbing is that it's well known that the government has violated the FISA Amendments Act, despite the broad surveillance authorities it provides the government.

A freedom of information request by the ACLU revealed that violations of the FISA Amendments Act and the Constitution continue to occur on a regular basis, until at least March 2010.

□ 1600

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

Mr. CONYERS. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KUCINICH. According to the ACLU, the law is written so broadly that a phone call by a U.S. citizen to a U.S. citizen overseas discussing general foreign affairs could be listened in on. Section 702 of this act allows the government to intercept the communication of any U.S. citizen absent probable cause, in subversion of their Fourth Amendment rights. So Big Brother is listening.

There's no doubt that Congress is abdicating its responsibility when it passes a blanket extension of this bill without knowing how many Americans have been affected by FISA or the government's interpretation of the law. Without vital civil liberties safeguards and a minimum of transparency, an extension should be rejected.

Big Brother is not accountable. Let's vote against Big Brother. Let's vote to protect the Fourth Amendment.

THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT

REPORT ON THE FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

Accordingly, we, the undersigned members of The Constitution Project's Liberty and Security Committee, recommend:

I. Increased Judicial Review of Surveillance Authorizations: The FAA should be amended to require more robust judicial review by the FISC to authorize programmatic surveillance and ensure that it is appropriately focused on foreign intelligence. Specifically:

(a.) Congress should restore the requirement that foreign intelligence be the primary purpose of the programmatic surveillance.

(b.) When seeking approval for programmatic surveillance, the government should be required to (1) explain the foreign intelligence purpose of the proposed surveillance, (2) define the scope of planned interceptions, and (3) provide a risk assessment and an estimate of reasonably anticipated interceptions of the communications of U.S. persons and individuals located within the United States. The surveillance should only be permitted after the FISC has thoroughly evaluated these submissions to ensure that surveillance is appropriately designed to acquire foreign intelligence information from legitimate targets without interfering with the privacy rights of U.S. persons and individuals located within the United States.

(c.) Additionally, the government should be required to develop and submit to the FISC procedures for determining when an acquisition may be expected to collect communications to or from the United States. Then, in cases where the planned surveillance may reasonably be expected to intercept communications to or from a person reasonably believed to be in the United States, the government should be required to obtain a FISA warrant under pre-FAA standards.

2. Inclusion of Warrant Requirements and Other Safeguards for Post-Collection Use of Information: The FAA should be amended to require that the government obtain a warrant from the FISC before searching collected communications for information on a specific U.S. person, decrypting the identity of a specific U.S. person party to a conversation, or reviewing communications reasonably believed to be to or from the United States. As required under the pre-FAA version of FISA, the warrant should be based upon a showing of probable cause to believe that the target is an agent of a foreign power or has committed a crime, and that evidence of the crime will be found and must name its target(s) with particularity. Moreover, Congress should ensure that collected information is being properly used for foreign intelligence purposes, including at the very least a requirement that authorities obtain a warrant before using data for law enforcement purposes. Finally, Congress should amend the FAA to require more stringent procedures for minimization, including periodic, ongoing FISC review of the implementation and efficacy of such procedures.

3. Increased Reporting and Oversight: More information about the intelligence community's use of the FAA should be provided to Congress and the public. Before reauthorizing the FAA, Congress should demand and review detailed information regarding the operation of the FAA surveillance program to date, including the extent and scope of interceptions of the communications of U.S. persons and individuals located within the United States. Further, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community should be required to audit these surveillance programs and issue annual reports to Congress regarding how government surveillance has been conducted. In particular, these reports should include: statistics regarding how many U.S. persons' communications have been intercepted by the government; aggregate statistics on the number of intercepted communications in total, and the number of intercepted communications to or from the United States or involving any U.S. person; an analysis of the performance of the government's targeting and minimization procedures; and an explanation of how collected information has been used, including the number of times the information has been used for law enforcement rather than foreign intelligence purposes. These reports should also be provided in an unclassified form released to the public. Additionally, as much as practicable, more information on the FAA should be released to the public, including important decisions by the FISC and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review, redacted as necessary.

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today extends the expiration date of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 from December 31, 2012 to December 31, 2017. I oppose this unwarranted long term extension because neither Congress nor the public yet have an adequate understanding of the impact this law has had on the privacy of American citizens.

The heart of the FISA Amendments Act is section 702, which authorizes the government to intercept the communications of people who are reasonably believed to be foreign persons outside of the U.S. On its face, the statute includes protections for American citizens who may be on the other end of these communications.

But section 702 does not require the government to obtain a warrant—and without more information about how the executive

branch uses this authority, we cannot confirm that the privacy of U.S. citizens is adequately protected.

These concerns are more than theoretical. In 2009, the New York Times reported that the NSA had engaged in the ''overcollection'' of American communications in situations not permitted by law. The government assures us that this problem was an accident and has been corrected—but the report does not inspire confidence in the safeguards we have put in place.

More recently, in a July 26, 2011, letter to Senators RON WYDEN (D–OR) and MARK UDALL (D–CO), the Office of the Director of National Intelligence stated that it is ''not reasonably possible'' to determine how many U.S. persons have had their communications intercepted under this law. Even if it is difficult to state an exact figure, it is hard to believe that the Director of National Intelligence cannot even guess. The Inspector General of the Intelligence Community didn't fare any better, and simply deferred to the non-answer provided earlier by the ODNI.

The public deserves better—and it is our responsibility to demand more information in the public record if the government will not provide it.

My colleagues prepared a series of amendments that would have addressed many of these basic oversight needs—without any risk to national security or the integrity of the underlying programs—but under this closed rule, we are not permitted to even debate these moderate changes to the bill on the floor. What is so dangerous about increased oversight that we cannot even debate an amendment?

If we require the government to provide us with unclassified reports, public summaries of key FISA court opinions, and an honest accounting of the number of Americans who have been affected by these programs, we will have gone a long way towards the responsible exercise of our oversight role.

And even if we cannot support these modest changes, we ought to amend this bill to provide for a shorter sunset. Meaningful oversight means revisiting these authorities before the winter of 2017. We cannot allow an entire presidential administration to pass before we discuss these authorities again—in the 115th Congress.

My amendment would have had the added benefit of linking this sunset to the three expiring provisions created by the USA PATRIOT Act. It would be to our benefit to consider the most controversial aspects of FISA all at once, instead of piecemeal over the course of the next decade. But under this closed process on the floor today, the House has been denied the opportunity to even consider this moderate change to the bill.

In conclusion, the government can and must do a better job of responding to our questions about privacy and other civil liberties. It can do so without risk to national security.

I have no doubt that these expiring authorities are important to the executive branch, but we should not let this opportunity pass without demanding reasonable, meaningful, and public oversight of a highly controversial law.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on H.R. 5949.

I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I thank Ranking Member CONYERS for his courtesy.

For over a decade, I have deeply been concerned about the potential overreach of wiretapping legislation and efforts at the NSA. I have voted repeatedly in the past against unreasonable expansion of any administration's ability to intrude in the lives of unknowing and innocent Americans, and I will do so again today.

I remain confident that the dedicated members of the intelligence community do not need to erode the rights of Americans in order to protect them. Any apparent gains in security that may be achieved are modest and more than outweighed by longer-term potential loss of civil liberties and oversight, the sense of security that each American deserves. I'm troubled by the implications for our Fourth Amendment rights, the absence of meaningful court review, and the risk to American liberties that stem from the FISA Amendments Act.

Frankly I see no reason to rush into voting on a bill so deficient. The American people would be better served if we continued the debate and the examination, had thorough answers from NSA, and took up reauthorization based on a more complete review and process.

In fact, I think as we stand here today on the floor, not even the NSA knows the extent to which the FISA Amendment Act may potentially have been abused. The right approach would be refining this bill and more broadly taking a closer look at what over the last decade has become an intelligence community that is, frankly, some feel, growing out of control.

It's been over 11 years since 9/11. We ought to be able to get this right. We shouldn't be rushed into doing something that has significant long-term implications for every American.

You know, take a deep breath and take a step back. There are over 4.2 million Americans who hold a security clearance. That's more than the entire State of Oregon's population, and let's throw in the city of Seattle for good measure. Almost half of them hold Top Secret security clearances, more than people who reside in Maine or Idaho. When you've got those millions of people, you have an entity that is cumbersome, potential for abuse, and, frankly, potential to be infiltrated or have mistakes.

Think about it: 9/11 occurred in part not because we didn't have information. Remember the memo on Bush's desk warning of a potential attack from bin Laden?

What we are doing at the same time we are eroding American rights? We're piling on more and more and more information, and it's going to be extraordinarily difficult to sort through. We risk putting Americans in trouble.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REED). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the vote we cast on the FISA Amendments Act tonight will be one of the most important votes we cast in Congress, and it is appropriate we do so during the week of 9/11.

The FISA Amendments Act will continue to allow us to conduct surveillance of terrorists, spies and others who would do us harm. A FISA court order is required if the target is a U.S. citizen, but not if the individual is outside of the United States and not a U.S. citizen.

The FISA Amendments Act was first passed in 2008 overwhelmingly, and it expires at the end of December. This bill extends the law for 5 years. The FISA Amendments Act is a top priority of the intelligence community. It was supported by the Bush administration in 2008 and is strongly endorsed by the Obama administration now. This is a bipartisan bill that enables us to vote to both neutralize threats to our national security and protect the civil liberties of American citizens.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5949, which would reauthorize the FISA, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Amendments Act of 2008, or FAA, as we refer to it, for 5 years.

The FAA is currently set to expire at the end of the year. If that happens, the government will lose a critical tool for protecting Americans against foreign threats, including terrorists, and, as a result, will lose significant intelligence on these foreign targets. I want to emphasize, Mr. Speaker, foreign targets.

We were all reminded yesterday, while looking back on the horrible events of 9/11, of the threat that we face from those seeking to do us harm. Let me reassure you that even though we have been able to disrupt numerous plots over the years, our enemies want to do just as much harm today as they did then, and they just want to do it as badly as they did even 11 years ago.

The original FAA that is being reauthorized was sponsored by Representative REYES in 2008, my Democrat predecessor, as chairman of the Intelligence Committee. It also reflected the work of then leader, Mr. HOYER, to help develop the final product under the previous majority. I have been pleased to work in a collegial, bipartisan manner with my ranking member, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, on this clean reauthorization bill as well. In fact, the Intelligence Committee reported this bill out unanimously, which doesn't happen all that much around this place.

The administration has also indicated to us that reauthorizing the FAA is its highest national security legislation priority, and on Tuesday issued a statement strongly supporting this bill. I hope we can all recognize this is

an issue that is being driven by our national security needs and not by politics.

A few key points on the FAA. First, if we let this authority expire, we will lose a critical intelligence collection tool against foreigners on foreign soil.

□ 1610

If that happens, we lose information on the plans and identities of terrorists, information about the functioning of terrorist groups like al Qaeda and others, information on the intentions and capabilities of weapons proliferators, information on potential cyberthreats to the United States and other critical intelligence about foreign adversaries that threaten the United States of America.

Second, it is important to remember that this authority is focused on allowing the government to conduct intelligence collection targeting foreigners located outside of the United States—I'm going to say that again, Mr. Speaker, targeting foreigners located outside of the United States—and not on Americans located in the United States or anywhere else in the world.

Third, the FAA is subject to a robust oversight structure, including Congress, and I can assure you that the Intelligence Committee takes this responsibility extremely seriously. We have had numerous hearings, Member briefings, and staff briefings since the passage of FAA in 2008. Before the government can collect any intelligence under the FISA Amendments Act, a Federal judge must approve the government's surveillance process, including the targeting and minimization procedures required under the law.

One final point, in addition to the primary authority in FAA to target foreigners located abroad, it actually enhanced the civil liberties protections for Americans by requiring a court order to target an American for collection outside of the United States. Before 2008, the government only needed the Attorney General for approval. If this law expires, so do these enhanced civil liberties protections.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to what some may say, FAA is not about domestic surveillance and it does not authorize a sweeping dragnet of collecting on American communications. This is about foreigners on foreign soil. It is about giving our intelligence professionals the tools they need to quickly and effectively intercept the communications of those outside the United States who seek to do us harm.

Let's not forget the nature of the threat that, almost 11 years ago to the day, took so many lives in such a horrific way. And the examples that we see just yesterday of the ongoing target of U.S. civilians, if they're in the United States or they're in places like Libya, continues to be a threat to the personal safety of those we ask to stand in harm's way and protect and promote the values of the United States.

This is a critical piece of legislation supported by both parties and the President of the United States. Mr. Speaker, I would urge all of our colleagues here to stand united in the defense of the United States and support H.R. 5949.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in favor of the FISA Amendments Act, which is due to expire at the end of this year.

When Chairman ROGERS and I took over the leadership of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, we made a commitment to work together to ensure the intelligence community has the authorities it needs to effectively protect our country while also protecting the privacy of Americans. I believe we must reauthorize this critical piece of legislation to keep America and her citizens safe. The FISA Amendments Act allows the government to gain important intelligence about terrorists, cyberthreats, weapons of mass destruction, and nuclear weapons that threaten Americans and U.S. interests.

There is a misconception out there that this act permits the surveillance of Americans without a court order. The bill prohibits the targeting of American citizens without a court order, no matter where they're located in the world.

The FISA Amendments Act gives the U.S. Government the authority to collect intelligence information about foreigners located outside of the United States. The FISA Amendments Act is subject to aggressive oversight by Congress and the executive branch.

There was an issue in the hearing before the Judiciary Committee about the issue of oversight. In this Congress alone, the House Intelligence Committee has held multiple hearings, briefings, and more than a dozen meetings concerning FISA. In addition, every 60 days the Department of Justice and the Director of National Intelligence conduct detailed onsite reviews to ensure compliance with the provisions of the act.

This is a bipartisan bill that passed out of the House Intelligence Committee by a unanimous vote of 17–0. I understand some Democrats would like a 3-year extension of the FISA Amendments Act, some Republicans requested a 9-year extension. The administration asked for a 5-year extension to take Presidential-year politics out of the process while providing consistency to the intelligence community. I support the President's request for a 5-year extension.

Without reauthorization, this critical tool would be lost, putting our Nation at severe risk. We would not be able to obtain the foreign intelligence necessary to prevent terrorist plots and financial support. I believe the act is critical to protecting our Nation while protecting our Americans' constitutional rights and privacy. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I yield 2 minutes to a friend of mine, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the chairman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I'm one of those Democrats that the ranking member talked about that would prefer a 3-year extension of this measure, but I'm going to vote for H.R. 5949, the FISA Amendments Act Reauthorization Act of 2012, also known as the FAA. I support this legislation because it protects our security, preserves our freedom, and has proven to respect our civil liberties in the process.

In 2008, many of us were rightly concerned about this program being created and used as a back door for collecting information on law-abiding Americans. I voted against the FAA in 2008, in part because of these civil liberty concerns. However, as a member of the House Intelligence Committee, I believe the abuses that we feared have just not materialized.

But let me be clear, and this and future administrations are being given fair warning. My colleagues and I on the House Intelligence Committee will continue to receive reports on FISA information collection. These reports must continue to be detailed and specific. If there are any abuses or problems stemming from the application of this program, I'm certain that this Congress will move swiftly to correct them. So far, the application of the FAA has gained our trust, but we will continue to verify how the FAA is being used. Trust, but verify.

Mr. Speaker, the FAA provides the tools we need to collect vital counterterrorism information in foreign intelligence. I will vote in favor of H.R. 5949, the FISA Amendments Act.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this FISA legislation. I do want to thank my ranking member for yielding to me, despite our difference of opinion.

As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I take the threat of terrorism very seriously, but I believe we are fully capable of protecting our security and safeguarding our precious civil liberties. This law authorizes the government to collect mass electronic communications coming into and going out of the United States so long as no U.S. person in the United States is intentionally targeted. Yet in April 2009, The New York Times reported that the National Security Agency ''intercepted private email messages and phone calls of Americans on a scale that went beyond the broad legal limits established by Congress.''

Shouldn't our government be required to disclose more about the extent and nature of the surveillance? Is this an authority that should be extended until 2017? Should we at least be able to consider an amendment to reexamine this law in 2013? But no amendments are allowed today.

I urge a ''no'' vote.

□ 1620

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

It's just important to remember that the due process protections of the United States are alive and well here. This is one of those programs that has an inordinate amount of oversight to make sure that we are not targeting Americans. Not only does the committee participate, but the Department of Justice has a separate review. There are strong internal reviews.

In the odd case where an American is intercepted, there are very strict procedures on how to destroy that information and correct that problem, and it has not happened, hardly frequently at all is the good news, which is why I think there is such bipartisan and strong support of our effort again to collect on foreigners who are outside of the United States, incredibly important.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in support of the FISA Amendments Act Reauthorization Act.

This bill reauthorizes intelligence gathering capabilities that are essential to our national security while also protecting the civil liberties of Americans.

The recent events in Libya, Egypt, and elsewhere should serve to remind us all that there remain forces around the world that are determined to kill Americans, injure our interests, and jeopardize our freedoms.

The FAA allows us to obtain critical information about terrorist organizations, nuclear proliferation, and a host of other dangers. These authorities have produced intelligence that's vital to defending the Nation against international terrorism and other threats, which is why Attorney General Holder and DNI Clapper have called reauthorizing the FAA their top legislative priority.

This bill does not authorize spying on Americans. To the contrary, the 2008 FISA Amendments Act ensured that no American, whether within the United States or overseas, would come under surveillance without a court order and a finding of probable cause.

The authorities provided are narrowly tailored to the purpose of protecting the United States from those who would harm us, and I urge an ''aye'' vote.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am going to continue to reserve and allow the gentleman from Maryland to close.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 5 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Michigan has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there's been talk about the FISA Amendments Act as a backdoor collection on Americans and does not sufficiently protect civil liberties. This is not the case. We are all Americans. We are Members of Congress. We care about our country. We care about our Constitution, and we care about our privacy and our civil liberties.

Now, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 actually expands the protections of Americans' civil liberties and privacy interests. Before the FISA Amendments Act in 2008, which became law then, the government needed only the Attorney General's authorization to target an American. Because of the FISA Amendments Act, if the government allows for surveillance of an American, that American must be overseas and the government must have a FISA court order if they do target an American anywhere in the world. The civil liberties of Americans are better protected than before this act became law in 2008.

Also, as far as oversight, and there have been allegations of not proper oversight. I understand the argument, and I don't disagree with the argument about sunsets. Sunsets are good because they hold us accountable. We can see if there are any abuses, and we can deal with them when we have sunsets.

However, the Department of Justice and the Director of National Intelligence file semi-annual reports with Congress as it relates to the FISA Act. These reports include information about compliance, targeting, and minimization on collections involving the parties that we're focused on.

The Intelligence Committee staff has conducted dozens of meetings about the authorities under the FISA amendments. These meetings have addressed compliance, procedures, authorities, and specific collection.

On the Intelligence Committee, we review, investigate, and debate the FISA Amendments Act. We maintain an ongoing dialogue with the intelligence community to ensure the law is being implemented in how it was intended.

We, as Americans, need to know more about the threats that are out there. Our threats for cyberattacks are occurring as we speak right now. It's very dangerous. These attacks can affect our national security, our grid systems, our banking systems, our air traffic control systems. This bill, this amendment, is part of our protection in dealing with those major issues.

I advise my colleague that I am ready to close, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I reserve with the right to close.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield, again, myself such time as I might consume.

The FISA Amendments Act is the result of decades of work to modify a law so we can adapt with changing technology and evolving national security threats. The bill demonstrates what Democrats and Republicans can do when we work together in a bipartisan way. It is uniquely important to put partisanship aside when America's national security is at stake.

We all have the same goal of keeping America safe from terrorist threats, whether on land or sea, in the air or with cyberspace. We also believe strongly, and this is very important, in the Constitution and the protections granted by our Founding Fathers.

The FISA Amendments Act is an important tool that has successfully prevented terrorist attacks on American soil. I know it is critical to our intelligence community.

I commend everyone who participated in this effort, especially the bipartisan leadership of Chairman ROGERS and the other members of the Intelligence Committee on both sides of the aisle. I support this straight reauthorization which President Obama, our Commander in Chief, has said is ''vital to protect our Nation.''

I will vote for the FISA Amendments Act Reauthorization Act of 2012, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my ranking member, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, for the fine bipartisan effort on this important national security issue.

I think the people at home can rest assured that we have taken every precaution to protect our civil liberties, which we all cherish in this Nation, and still have the ability to collect on foreigners overseas seeking to harm this great country, and I want to thank you for your work and commend the President for his letter of support of our bipartisan effort on this important national security issue.

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5949, the FISA Amendments Reauthorization Act, FAA. Matters of national security are of the utmost importance and we should ensure that the government has the necessary tools to keep America safe. Yet, we must always balance this with protecting the civil liberties of American citizens. Unfortunately, this legislation before us today fails this important test.

I voted against this legislation when it was first passed in 2008 and I continue to have many of the same reservations and objections to the policies set forth by the FAA. I continue to be concerned that the Fourth Amendment rights of American citizens are not adequately protected by this legislation, which is of the utmost importance. Specifically, FAA makes an

end-run around the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, FISC, by allowing the government to conduct surveillance without a FISC warrant. Such a broad exercise of power undermines our system of checks and balances and has grave implications for the protection of our constitutional rights. We should be enhancing the role of the FISC to ensure that the rights of American citizens are protected while the government collects intelligence to help defend our nation.

Additionally, the five-year extension provided by this legislation will ensure that regardless of which candidate wins the presidency on November 6, their administration will have these powers for the length of their term. A shorter extension would allow Congress to conduct the proper oversight over the use of these authorities and to better examine whether such authorities are still necessary to ensure the protection of our citizens.

Regardless of who is in the White House, it is the duty of this body to ensure that the power of the executive branch is not unfettered and that proper oversight is conducted. It is in this spirit that I cast my vote against this legislation today.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the reauthorization of the 2008 FISA Amendments Act, as it violates the Fourth Amendment of our Constitution. Supporters of this reauthorization claim that the United States will be more vulnerable if the government is not allowed to monitor citizens without a warrant. I would argue that we are more vulnerable if we do allow the government to monitor Americans without a warrant. Nothing makes us more vulnerable than allowing the Constitution to be violated.

Passage of this reauthorization will allow the government to listen in to our phone calls, read our personal correspondence, and monitor our activities without obtaining a warrant. Permission for surveillance obtained by a secret FISA court can cover broad categories of targets rather than specific individuals, as the Fourth Amendment requires. Americans who communicate with someone who is suspected of being affiliated with a target group can be monitored without a warrant. The only restriction is that Americans on U.S. soil are not to be the primary targets of the surveillance. That is hardly reassuring. U.S. intelligence agencies are not to target Americans on U.S. soil, but as we all know telephone conversations usually take place between two people. If on the other end of the international conversation is an American, his conversation is monitored, recorded, transcribed, and kept for future use.

According to press reports earlier this summer, the Director of National Intelligence admitted to the Senate that ''on at least one occasion'' U.S. intelligence collection agencies violated the Constitutional prohibitions on unlawful search and seizure. Without possibility for oversight of the process and with the absence of transparency, we will never know just how many Americans have been wiretapped without warrants.

Creating a big brother surveillance state here is no solution to threats that may exist from abroad. I urge my colleagues to reject these FISA amendments and return to the Constitution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 773, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1644

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REED) at 4 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: H.R. 5949; and suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3857 and H.R. 5865.

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

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the passage of the bill (H.R. 5949) to extend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 for five years, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 301, nays 118, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 569]

YEAS—301

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Amodei
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carnahan
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Cicilline
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Cuellar
Culberson
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holden
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kaptur
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Scalise
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—118

Amash
Andrews
Baldwin
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Chu
Clarke (MI)

Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Conyers
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Filner
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Gibson
Grijalva
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Hinchey
Holt
Honda
Israel
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren, Zoe
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Meeks
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Rangel
Richardson
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Slaughter
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey

NOT VOTING—10

Akin
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Herger
Hirono
Jackson (IL)
Ryan (WI)
Towns
Young (AK)

□ 1712

Mrs. MALONEY, Messrs. WATT, HONDA, DINGELL, RANGEL, KILDEE and WAXMAN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. CRAWFORD, CLYBURN, YARMUTH, CONNOLLY of Virginia, Ms. KAPTUR, Messrs. BARTLETT and CICILLINE changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PUBLIC TRANSIT SECURITY AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3857) to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to include as an eligible use the sustainment of specialized operational teams used by local law enforcement under the Transit Security Grant Program, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 355, nays 62, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 570]

YEAS—355

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

NAYS—62

Adams
Amash
Barton (TX)
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Cassidy
Coble
Culberson
DesJarlais
Duncan (TN)
Farr
Flake
Fleming
Foxx
Gardner
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Griffith (VA)
Hensarling
Huizenga (MI)
Hurt
Jones
Jordan
Kingston
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Landry
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lummis
Marchant
McClintock
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Nunnelee
Palazzo
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Quayle
Ribble
Rooney
Ross (FL)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Southerland
Stutzman
Walsh (IL)
Westmoreland
Woodall
Woolsey

NOT VOTING—12

Akin
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Hartzler
Herger
Hirono
Jackson (IL)
Paul
Ryan (WI)
Towns
Velázquez

□ 1719

Mr. CLEAVER changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5865) to promote the growth and competitiveness of American manufacturing, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. BONO MACK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 339, nays 77, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 571]

YEAS—339

Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barber
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heinrich
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney
Manzullo
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Pompeo
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—77

Adams
Amash
Bishop (UT)
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Campbell
Canseco
Carter
Cassidy
Conaway
Culberson
Duncan (SC)
Farenthold
Flake
Fleming
Flores
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gohmert
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Hall
Hanna
Heck
Hensarling
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Jordan
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Landry
Lankford
Long
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Mack
Marchant
McClintock
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Palazzo
Pearce
Petri
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ross (FL)
Scalise
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (NE)
Southerland
Stutzman
Thornberry
Walberg
Webster
Wilson (SC)
Woodall
Yoder

NOT VOTING—13

Akin
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Dicks
Herger
Hirono
Jackson (IL)
Paul
Ryan (WI)
Sullivan
Towns
Velázquez

□ 1727

Mr. CONAWAY changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 117, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2013; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6365, NATIONAL SECURITY AND JOB PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112–667) on the resolution (H. Res. 778) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 117) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6365) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to replace the sequester established by the Budget Control Act of 2011, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6213, NO MORE SOLYNDRAS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112–668) on the resolution (H. Res. 779) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6213) to limit further taxpayer exposure from the loan guarantee program established under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COMMUNICATION FROM CONSTITUENT SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE, THE HONORABLE J. RANDY FORBES, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from CeJae Johnson, Constituent Services Representative, the Honorable J. RANDY FORBES, Member of Congress:

J. RANDY FORBES,
UNITED STATES CONGRESS,
4th District, VA, September 10, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the Chesterfield, Virginia General District Court (Civil) for hearing testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

CEJAE JOHNSON,
Constituent Services Representative,
Congressman J. Randy Forbes.

LANCE T. SHANER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lance T. Shaner of Centre County, Pennsylvania. This week, on September 13, 2012, Lance will be honored as the 2012 recipient of the Navy League of Central Pennsylvania's Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Distinguished Citizen Award.

The Navy League of Central Pennsylvania is an organization dedicated to enhancing public awareness of the missions and challenges facing today's Armed Forces, as well as advocating for the well-being of the men and women who serve.

The Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Distinguished Citizen Award is given to a nonactive duty person whose character, distinguished military or civilian service, and stature draw wholesome comparison to the qualities for

which the Navy League of Central Pennsylvania Council strives to promote.

Lance Shaner, chairman of the Shaner Group, is known throughout central Pennsylvania for his various community efforts, which include the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County, United Way, Centre Volunteers in Medicine, the Boy Scouts of America, the YMCA, Mount Nittany Medical Center, and many other programs that benefit our community.

I want to thank Lance Shaner for his service to our community, and I congratulate him on this distinguished award.

CORVALLIS WILL NOT BE BULLIED BY CHINA

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Recently, the Chinese consul general sent a letter to the mayor of Corvallis, a small city in my district. The letter was followed up by personal visits by the vice consul and the deputy consul general. Now, we always welcome visitors, but under these circumstances, we have some concerns.

They are trying to pressure the mayor of the City of Corvallis to compel a local businessman to remove a mural dedicated to free Tibet and Taiwan independence from his downtown building. It was characterized by the local newspaper as a shakedown because the original letter broadly hinted that it might be in Corvallis' best interest economically to cooperate with the request.

I am shocked and appalled that apparently Chinese professional diplomats have failed to read the Constitution of the United States of America before traveling here to represent their country.

This represents the basis of our representative democracy, our freedom of speech, and our rights, and it will not be bullied by China or any other overseas interest.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JERRY COSTELLO

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order honoring Congressman JERRY COSTELLO's distinguished service in Congress.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great legislator and a close personal friend, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO, who will retire from the House of Representatives at the end of this 112th Congress.

JERRY has long been known as one of the most effective and well-liked Members of Congress since he took office in 1988. It is my honor to lead this Special Order in his honor.

I knew JERRY before I was elected to Congress in 2004. I had the privilege of working in his congressional office in the mid-1990s. Today, we serve together on two House committees: the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

JERRY has been an important mentor to me throughout my time here. I have always been impressed with his work on behalf of his constituents and his work to improve America's transportation network. He is someone who is here to get things done, and he knows how to do it.

His retirement from this body is a loss to us all. Congress will not be the same without JERRY, and I know we would all benefit if we had more colleagues like him.

There are a number of Members on both sides of the aisle who want to speak, so I will continue with the rest of my speech later if we have time. But right now, I want to recognize the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

□ 1740

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We could devote much more than an hour to JERRY COSTELLO's career in Congress.

I sat next to JERRY on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for more than two decades, and there is no more knowledgeable, dedicated advocate in the United States Congress—most recently on aviation issues, but across the board on infrastructure issues which underlie our economy and our productivity and our growth—than JERRY COSTELLO. His work has been phenomenal. He has done more than I could have imagined in his period of time. And we will miss him.

I congratulate him upon a well and hard-earned retirement.

Mr. LIPINSKI. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I apologize to my good friends, but this has to be a two-way street—bipartisan—because I do believe that JERRY was an example of the Congress that I knew and loved where we worked together to solve problems. JERRY was very good at that. I, as chairman of the Transportation Committee, we worked through with Jim Oberstar, and we never had an adversarial vote in that whole period of time because he did believe in bipartisanship for the bills in transportation, not only in his district, but for the Nation as a whole.

JERRY was a gentleman at all times. Sometimes I get a little excited, and he would remind me as the chairman that maybe I could be a little more kinder. I told him that doesn't always work. That worked for JERRY. And I do respect his capability to not only serve in his district, but making sure that this Nation had a transportation system in place that would serve this whole Nation.

I look forward to JERRY's retirement—in a sense. I'm sure he'll do good and great things after this, but we will miss his time in Congress. And as a Republican, I definitely will miss him. I do thank JERRY.

Mr. LIPINSKI. I thank you, Mr. YOUNG.

I want to recognize now the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank my friend from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for yielding to me.

When I think of JERRY COSTELLO, I think of the fact that those of us in Illinois sort of had two go-to members of the Transportation Committee for many years, Bill Lipinski, who is the Congressman's father, and JERRY COSTELLO. We used to call them the ''Gold Dust Twins.'' One of the reasons is because they had such a great relationship and worked cooperatively to make sure that our State, the State of Illinois, the home of Abraham Lincoln, was well taken care of in terms of infrastructure, but they also worked for the entire country.

I had an opportunity to travel with JERRY and his wonderful wife a number of times. Of course she is a delightful lady who is a higher education administrator, the president of a community college. And other members of their family are engaged in public service as well as what they do privately. I've never known a more congenial Member of this body or any other legislative body that I've served in than JERRY COSTELLO.

I think he's actually too young to retire, and so I've got a feeling that he's got some other things on his mind, some other things that he's going to do. I think he'll still be fishing down in the East St. Louis area, making sure that the catfish and the other creatures out there give up their habitat and become members of the land gentry.

So JERRY, take care of yourself. Have all the fun that you can, but I'm certain that there is something else that you're going to be doing.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Next, I want to recognize the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for organizing this hour and concur with my colleagues that an hour is not nearly enough to highlight the virtues and certainly the public service of our distinguished colleague, JERRY COSTELLO.

JERRY, as has already been said, and his lovely wife, Georgia, their beautiful

family, we're all very happy and proud that he will be joined with them. In whatever endeavor he does, we know he will bring the kind of energy, the kind of commitment, and the kind of integrity that he's brought to the floor of the House.

Robert Remini, also from Illinois and a historian, has written a significant history about the House. In his book, he talks about the character of the people that serve here. I'm proud to say that I've had the opportunity to serve with someone who is so genuine, who cares so deeply about this institution, his home State of Illinois, and the people he has served with. He does it the old fashioned way, the Bill Lipinski way, with a handshake and a commitment and always looking you directly in the eye. As DON YOUNG from Alaska indicated, he also has the great capacity to reach across the aisle, understanding implicitly that things don't get done unless we're capable of working together. An incredible wise sense of humor, always sage advice, and an incredible understanding of politics, not only the local flavor of his great State of Illinois, but also the ebb and flow of business here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

He is honored by his colleagues and respected not only for his political acumen and his professionalism, but most of all because of the integrity that he brings to this floor each and every day. He will be sorely missed. It's an honor to have served with him. I look forward to a continued relationship with this great man from Illinois, JERRY COSTELLO.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Next, I want to recognize the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY).

Mr. CLAY. Let me thank my friend from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for yielding.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that I rise today to honor my great friend and colleague, the distinguished senior Member from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO). Let me also mention that Mr. COSTELLO served in previous Congresses with my father, so he was here when I got here. And our districts are just across the river from each other. He represents southern Illinois, and I represent the city of St. Louis, the Gateway to the West.

As he prepares to retire at the conclusion of the 112th Congress, Congressman COSTELLO has been a trusted friend and mentor to me for the last 12 years. When I first arrived as a freshman Member of Congress in 2001, Congressman COSTELLO was here to greet me and guide me along the right path, and over the years I have continued to rely on his good advice and wise counsel. His departure is a great loss for the State of Illinois, the citizens of the 12th District, and the St. Louis regional delegation.

For the last 24 years, Mr. COSTELLO has been a tireless advocate for southern Illinois and Metro East. He has been a champion for rebuilding and enhancing our transportation infrastructure. The magnificent new Mississippi River bridge that is currently under construction will be a powerful symbol of his legacy of leadership.

Congressman COSTELLO has also been the patron saint of Scott Air Force Base, the largest employer in southern Illinois. Our region, and indeed our Nation, are stronger because of his continuous efforts to preserve and expand this vital national defense asset.

□ 1750

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great blessing to have had the opportunity to serve with Congressman COSTELLO and to call him my good friend. I honor him for his service to his State, the St. Louis region, and our Nation, and I salute him on a remarkable congressional career.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Thank you, Mr. CLAY.

Next I want to recognize the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. First, let me thank the gentleman, Mr. LIPINSKI, for organizing this opportunity to come to the floor today and recognize the remarkable achievements of our dear friend, my dear friend, Representative JERRY COSTELLO.

I want to thank JERRY, my friend and colleague, for his 24 years of remarkable, outstanding service to his district, to Illinois, and to the country. And although he's retiring at the end of this Congress, I know that his impact will be long-lasting.

Since arriving in Congress in 1999, I have been very fortunate to have JERRY COSTELLO to rely on for advice and guidance and support. And as you hear from one Member after another who gets up and says the same thing, you can see how JERRY COSTELLO has been a friend to so many on both sides of the aisle.

When I came, he and then-Representative Ray LaHood, now Secretary of Transportation, convened routine meetings of the Illinois House delegation to discuss how we could work together to meet the needs of our State. A fierce advocate for southwestern and southern Illinois, JERRY was eager to help all parts of the State to obtain Federal assistance and meet the needs of our constituents.

Our delegation may have had some disagreements on policy, but we were firmly united, under JERRY's leadership, in our desire to bring funding to Illinois to create jobs, improve access to health care, help farmers and promote Illinois businesses.

It wasn't until I was in Congress for a while longer that I realized that not every State delegation met in this manner. It was because of JERRY's leadership, his dedication to getting things done, and his ability to work in a bipartisan manner that the Illinois delegation could get together, not just to talk, but to achieve concrete results.

Throughout his career, JERRY has been a real workhorse. As senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and ranking Democrat on the Aviation Subcommittee, he has shaped transportation policy and is responsible for unprecedented improvements in aviation safety. He is a recognized expert on transportation issues, and he is known for his commitment to protecting the interests of travelers, riders and passengers and the rights of transportation workers.

He has brought his policy interests to other areas as well, from his role on the Science, Space and Technology Committee, to his interests in agriculture, education and children.

JERRY COSTELLO is the go-to leader of the Illinois House delegation, and it is easy to see why. It is not just that he loves the State of Illinois and the House of Representatives. It is not just that he can put together strategies to pass legislation or bring Federal assistance to his district. It is his entire being, a calm but determined demeanor, a commonsense approach to problem-solving, and a welcoming attitude for his beloved constituents and his colleagues.

Throughout my time in Congress, JERRY has been generous in sharing with me his time and his talents, and for that I'm extremely grateful.

I have also been so happy to get to know JERRY's wonderful wife, Georgia. Georgia is the president of Southwestern Illinois College, an advocate for the Illinois Green Economy Network, and she also brings a spirit of public service to her work in improving the community.

My dear friend, JERRY, your record of accomplishments over the past 24 years is enormous. And while you may be retiring from the House of Representatives, I know that you and Georgia will continue to work to inspire and improve the lives of Illinoisans. I thank you for your friendship that I hope will endure and for all that you have done for our great State.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Thank you, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for your comments.

Next I want to recognize the gentlelady from Texas, who JERRY and I both serve on Transportation and Infrastructure and Science, Space and Technology with, and who's also the ranking member of the Science, Space and Technology Committee, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Thank you very much, Mr. LIPINSKI, for reserving this hour.

And thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak in honor of a very cherished colleague and a dear friend in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman JERRY COSTELLO, after 24 years of dedicated service, is retiring, and that is a very tall order for me to accept because I have served with him on both of his major committees from the time I came to Congress 20 years ago; and he appears to be, starting this term, a part of a vanishing breed of people who came here to work across the aisles.

When I think of JIMMY DUNCAN, when I think of Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, when I think of Ray LaHood, I think of the camaraderie that we have shared on the committees working together to get things done. And I look up and many of them are leaving. It's so unfortunate that we're losing such a stellar example of the commitment needed to be an effective public servant.

He began his public service at an early age, working in law enforcement while attending college. He has built his career on bipartisanship and dependability and has always kept the needs of his constituents and the American people foremost in his mind and close to his heart.

Congressman COSTELLO is a devoted family man who treasures his wife, Georgia, and their three children and eight grandchildren. And I have shared with Georgia and Lynn, JIMMY DUNCAN's wife, trips around the world where we became almost like family.

His companion has given the Congressman a unique perspective, making him much more effective as a Member of Congress.

I remember one time we went on a trip, and at the last minute, Georgia couldn't go and we ended up being seatmates all the way. And he said at the end, I enjoyed you being my seatmate, but you'll never be Georgia. And he was right.

I've had the distinct pleasure of working closely with Congressman COSTELLO on both the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space and Technology. As a matter of fact, I would not be ranking member had he chosen to use his seniority to become the ranking member of Science, Space and Technology.

He's an effective legislator and has shown an unwavering commitment to furthering scientific research and building our Nation's infrastructure. Having served both as chairman and ranking member on the Aviation Subcommittee with Congressman PETRI from Wisconsin, just like two brothers, they have been guests in my district where we did work together on a very bipartisan basis to improve the safety and innovation of the aviation industry.

Mr. Speaker, the bonds that we form with our fellow colleagues in Congress are unlike anything else. You become closer in friendship, and you begin to see people as individuals. This last 2 years, however, has not been the example that I lived with 18 years before that.

Congressman COSTELLO and I developed, over the years, a very special relationship. The House of Representatives is losing a distinguished colleague and one of those from the old guard that we call the bipartisan focus on business people.

I have immense respect for Congressman COSTELLO, and I will miss him dearly. I wish him well, and I wish his family the best in future endeavors. And I do hope that this is not the last of a vanishing breed of the persons who came here to work to get things done and not be so partisan.

□ 1800

I really will miss the camaraderie that we shared with JIMMY DUNCAN, DON YOUNG, Ray LaHood—all the people who can see beyond partisanship.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Thank you, Ms. JOHNSON.

Next, I want to recognize the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE).

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the gentleman from Illinois.

I, too, rise to pay tribute to our great colleague, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO. We've spent a lot of time during this hour talking about what a great person JERRY COSTELLO is, which is certainly true. He is a kind and decent man. He operates in a bipartisan manner, and he is a friend to nearly everybody in this institution. We could continue to take the entire hour just talking about what a very fine person JERRY COSTELLO is. Yet, when you look at the legislative record over the decades of service that he has offered to his constituency and to the country, there are a few things that stand out.

On the Transportation Committee, JERRY COSTELLO has a long and lasting record of many achievements, but he also has a lot of things he has done back home that those of us in Washington maybe don't see every day. For example, when the Base Closing and Realignment Commission slated for closure a military base in JERRY's district, JERRY COSTELLO did what is nearly impossible—he got the realignment commission to review the facts; he had that decision overturned; and he saved that military base and the thousands of jobs that go with it for his district. That's a lasting achievement he can be proud of.

When you look at things on the Transportation Committee that have lasting significance, a changing in the law to benefit all Americans. There was a tragic, terrible catastrophe—an air disaster in Buffalo several years ago. JERRY COSTELLO took the lead in this Congress and in this country in changing the laws dealing with pilot fatigue and the requirements for the pilots on the planes. That is going to save lives around this country, and that is going to allow for the averting of this type of disaster in the future. That happened because of JERRY COSTELLO's leadership.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we think about the lasting contributions that JERRY COSTELLO has made, yes, many of them are personal. Many of them have to do with the relationships he has built and the friendships he will carry forward into his new career, but let's also remember the many significant legislative achievements for his district that are unparalleled to anyone else's in this institution.

So, JERRY, we wish you the best. We are going to miss you.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Thank you, Mr. ALTMIRE.

Next, I want to recognize the Democratic whip, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I want to thank my friend, Congressman LIPINSKI, for taking on this Special Order.

For someone who had been regaled, as I understand it, earlier, by his colleagues who know him best, before I came to the floor, this is a body in which you get to know people. You get to know their characters, their personalities, their civility, their effectiveness, their work ethic, their patriotism, their willingness to work with others. On all of those counts, all of his colleagues found JERRY COSTELLO to be one of the best among them.

JERRY COSTELLO came to this Congress in the election of 1988. He has been my colleague for all of the years that he has served in this House. I was privileged to come just a few years before JERRY COSTELLO. He was elected by the people of Illinois after an extraordinary career early in life, as a young man. He was not only attending to the court system of Illinois but also as the county executive, as the leader of one of the largest counties in Illinois. He was chosen because of his judgment, chosen because of his good sense, his common sense, chosen because of his effectiveness as a representative of the people. There has not been a day that has gone by that I have served with JERRY COSTELLO that I did not have all of those affirmations affirmed here in this House. So I rise with my friend, Mr. LIPINSKI, to honor JERRY COSTELLO.

Now, we're going to have the opportunity to serve with JERRY COSTELLO for another 3 months at least. JERRY COSTELLO is very much alive. This is not a eulogy. JERRY COSTELLO is someone who is still a young man for whom I see a very bright future. In whatever endeavor he chooses to pursue, he will be successful; and with whomever he works, they will be advantaged. In whatever he does, I know that we're all going to stay in close touch with JERRY COSTELLO.

The preceding speaker and Mr. LIPINSKI—and whose dad before him—now serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It is a critical committee of the Congress of the United States, one of the most important in terms of growing jobs and expanding our economy because it invests in the infrastructure, which is the underpinning of a growing economy. My friend Mr. LIPINSKI has fought so hard for legislation to expand manufacturing—a Make It In America agenda item—and has focused on making sure that we have had an infrastructure that has supported manufacturing, the distribution of goods and the transportation of goods to our shores to be sent abroad for purchase by our trading partners.

JERRY COSTELLO was part of the leadership of two of the major transportation bills that have passed this House

in recent years, ensuring not only that Illinois received particular attention but that America received particular attention, every part of this America. The best traditions of a Congressman are, yes, in representing his district effectively, but also in understanding that his responsibility is to all of America. JERRY COSTELLO has fulfilled that expectation with flying colors and great effectiveness. We are going to miss JERRY COSTELLO.

But I want to tell JERRY COSTELLO—and I hope he's listening—that we have a few days left to go, and I'm going to look forward to working with him. I am hopeful that, in the lame duck session, we'll address one of the most vexing problems confronting this country, and that is getting ourselves on a fiscally sustainable path. I expect JERRY COSTELLO to be in the leadership of that effort as he has been in the leadership of so many efforts.

Again, Congressman LIPINSKI, I want to thank you for your leadership, for your service, for your commitment to the same kinds of things that JERRY COSTELLO has been committed to in building up this country and in making sure that average working men and women have had jobs and that we have expanded our economy by investing in our economy. So it is appropriate that you lead this Special Order on behalf of a kindred soul, JERRY COSTELLO. You and he represent a real leadership on behalf of growth, jobs, and economic success in America.

We thank JERRY COSTELLO for his service, but we look forward to working with him in whatever capacity he chooses to follow in the years ahead.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Thank you very much, Mr. HOYER.

I just want to wrap up here and continue on in talking about JERRY.

I know JERRY has been extremely popular among his constituents because he is a lifelong resident of his district and always has been focused on helping them. He was born in East St. Louis, Illinois. He attended Assumption High School there, and later graduated from Southwestern Illinois College and Maryville University, which is just across the Mississippi River in St. Louis. After graduating with a bachelor's degree, JERRY worked in various positions in southwestern Illinois, culminating with his election to the House of Representatives in August of 1988 in a special election.

He was known then and is still known today as a person with a special ethic and earnestness to roll up his sleeves and get the job done. Since that time, his accomplishments have been numerous and outstanding. We've heard from many of our colleagues before this about some of his accomplishments. I could spend hours standing up here listing them all, but some of his most important, recent accomplishments include helping to pass four national highway investment bills, seven Federal Aviation Administration bills, and helping to secure funds for a new Mississippi bridge for the residents of Illinois and Missouri.

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He has a great reputation for delivering for his district. A couple of examples include helping prevent the closure of Scott Air Force Base, the largest employer in Illinois south of Springfield, and helping extend St. Louis' Metrolink to St. Clair County, providing public transportation to many thousands of people. He has received recognition as a leading advocate for farmers and for many other causes, including the arts and multiple sclerosis.

His dedication to an effective transportation network in the U.S. has remained steadfast throughout his career. As Mr. ALTMIRE has mentioned, a perfect example of this is his drafting and passing of the Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009. In response to a tragic plane crash in 2009 in Buffalo, New York, that killed 51 due to lack of rest for the pilot, JERRY wrote a bill that made requirements for pilot rest and training much more stringent. This legislation has resulted in safer travel for millions of Americans. The legislation is a lasting reminder of the fine work JERRY has done while in Congress.

During his time, JERRY has sat in positions of leadership as chairman of the House Aviation Subcommittee on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, now serving as ranking member, as well as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics within the Science and Technology Committee. He has always worked in a bipartisan manner on those committees, doing everything he could to make those committees work.

I, and this legislative body, will miss Mr. COSTELLO and the leadership he has provided, but we can all take comfort in knowing that he will be able to spend more time with his wife, Georgia, who serves her community as the president of Southwestern Illinois College; their three children, Jerry, Gina, and John Patrick; and their eight grandchildren, Jay, Austin, Rorey, Ireland, Jerry, Victoria, Georgia, and John Patrick. He will undoubtedly continue to serve his neighbors and all the residents of southwest Illinois in his day-to-day activities.

Please join me in honoring JERRY COSTELLO for his tireless hard work, dedication, and skill serving the people of America and Illinois. I congratulate JERRY and thank him for all he has done for his constituents and for his Nation. I thank you, JERRY, for your mentorship here in Congress, and I wish you the best as you retire from the House of Representatives.

I know, as other speakers before me have said, JERRY is much too young to retire. I'm sure there are many great things that he will be doing, and he will always be remembered as a great man who served his country and served his constituents of Illinois. We will certainly miss him here, and we can certainly use more JERRY COSTELLOs in this body.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congressman COSTELLO on his pending retirement and thank him for his service to his country and district.

Serving in the House of Representatives since 1988, Congressman COSTELLO has become a key figure in this body, serving as the dean of the Illinois delegation and working across lines to find sensible solutions to the day's most pressing challenges. JERRY has proven himself to be a gentleman whose dedication and service to his constituents and to the United States of America went above and beyond the Halls of Congress.

I had the pleasure of serving alongside Congressman COSTELLO on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where I was proud to have called the Congressman not only my colleague, but my friend. I observed as he worked to build the transportation infrastructure in Southern Illinois and the country. Over the years, JERRY has built a reputation for not only his hard work, but also his ability to work with Members of the other party. It is these qualities—work ethic and bipartisan spirit—that will be missed most in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Congressman COSTELLO on his retirement. While his mark on the Nation and his district are permanent, his presence in this chamber will be missed.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Congressman JERRY COSTELLO, and to thank him for his 24 years of service in the House of Representatives working on behalf of the people of the 12th congressional district of Illinois.

JERRY has worked tirelessly during his time in Congress to create jobs and improve the lives of the people of Southwestern and Southern Illinois, as well as in his role on the Aviation Subcommittee. His leadership in aviation is best illustrated by the passage of The Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009 in the House, the strongest aviation safety bill passed in 50 years.

I wish JERRY the best of luck in his future endeavors, and know that I speak for many other Members when I say he will be dearly missed.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor a dedicated public servant—Congressman JERRY COSTELLO. JERRY has served the people of Illinois as a law enforcement officer, as St. Clair County Board Chairman, and as a member of this House.

As you know, JERRY and I are from different political parties. But when I first came here to Washington, he was one of the first people to help me and to give me advice. He was always willing to answer my questions—some that probably seemed very basic to him. We found that despite our political differences, our callings were both based in faith—and that has allowed our relationship to grow.

I consider JERRY COSTELLO a close friend and confidant. I cannot remember a single issue relevant to our part of the state that we have disagreed on. It has been a pleasure joining him in working on behalf of Scott Air Force Base, the levee and flood insurance issues we continue to face, and legislation related to industries important to southern Illinois like coal and renewable fuels.

Finally, I want to thank JERRY's wife Georgia and his children Jerry II, Gina and John for sharing their husband and father with all of us. And to Jay, Austin, Rorey, Ireland Keen, Jerry III, Victoria, Georgia Danielle and John Patrick—I know your grandpa is looking forward to spending more time with each of you.

Thank you, JERRY. May God continue to bless the Costello family.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of my colleague and good friend, JERRY COSTELLO. I have had the privilege of serving with JERRY for almost 20 years. Perhaps the greatest compliment that I can pay him, especially in this town, is that he remains the same guy today that he was when I first met him in 1993. JERRY is a serious legislator and a thoughtful statesman. He has served his constituents with devotion and distinction, but more than that, he has worked on a broader scale to advance good policy for the betterment of all the citizens of Illinois and those nationwide.

As one of the foremost transportation experts in Congress, JERRY has worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to improve America's transportation infrastructure and increase the safety of our skies. JERRY earned the reputation of being a hard worker and an approachable colleague. In his various leadership roles, you could count on JERRY to listen to the needs of your district and provide assistance when able. Even when you find yourself on the other side of a policy issue from JERRY, he treats you with fairness and respect. Differences of opinion with JERRY are never personal, and that is why so many colleagues consider JERRY to be a personal friend.

Given that a Member's staff is a reflection of the Member, it should be no surprise that JERRY assembled a team of considerate and effective public servants. Along with his talented chief of staff, David Gillies, JERRY consistently worked to promote a constructive and collegial environment within the Illinois delegation regardless of which side was in power.

Given his rock-solid reputation, impeccable character, and impressive resume of accomplishment, other colleagues will likely describe JERRY as part of a dying breed of statesmen, a sentiment with which I concur. On behalf of the constituents of Northern Illinois, I thank JERRY for his service and for the infrastructure improvements he supported in our neck of the state. I wish JERRY and Georgia all the best as they begin this new chapter of their lives together.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the 113th Congress, the Illinois delegation in the House of Representatives will be missing a familiar face. Representative JERRY COSTELLO, after over two decades of service to the people of southern Illinois, will retire at the end of this term. He leaves Congress with an exemplary record of accomplishments and a long list of friends on both sides of the aisle, and he will truly be missed.

Among the many issues that JERRY worked on during his tenure, he and I share a passion for infrastructure improvements. During my first term, I served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with JERRY, and his example and determination to work with both sides to get things done was invaluable to me. His spirit of putting the people he represented before partisanship is one that all of us, his colleagues, strive to embody as well.

Over the course of his time in the House of Representatives, JERRY earned the respect of his colleagues and staff, but his successes and achievements in Washington never made him forget where he came from. He and his family maintain their deep roots in Illinois, and every weekend he could be found somewhere in the 12th District holding a town hall, speaking at a local gathering, or participating in a media event.

JERRY's retirement means that Illinois has lost a great Representative, but it retains a great citizen. Whatever he decides to pursue in the coming years, I hope he finds time to get some well-deserved rest and relaxation with his wife and family. I wish him all the best.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and career of my friend, the Honorable JERRY COSTELLO.

Born and raised in the Midwest, Congressman COSTELLO has dedicated his life to serving the residents of the state of Illinois. Prior to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, he had a career in law enforcement and worked as a county bailiff and deputy sheriff. His service to the State of Illinois and St. Clair County in the early days of his career led him to seek office in the House of Representatives in a special election in 1988. He has consistently put the needs of his constituents first for the past 24 years.

Today, Congressman COSTELLO is the most senior member of the Illinois delegation and has been a guide to freshmen members throughout the past dozen Congresses. He has been a leader in areas such as infrastructure and science and technology. JERRY has also been dubbed ''the patron saint of Scott Air Force Base,'' one of the largest employers in the State of Illinois. Above all, the Congressman has been a fearless and dedicated representative of his constituents in southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating our friend and colleague, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO, on 24 years of service to the residents of southern Illinois and the United States of America. His wisdom and leadership will be missed in the halls of Congress.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about my friend Congressman JERRY COSTELLO of Illinois. JERRY is retiring at the end of this session and we wish him well.

By the time I arrived in Congress, JERRY was already a senior Member. I did not know him and had never heard of him. We met through our mutual friend, Congressman RICHARD NEAL. We had a fair amount of mutual background—having been elected executive officials from our home states and having a deep respect for the art of politics and government.

First and foremost, JERRY serves his constituents. We usually sit together during votes and we discuss most of them. I want to hear his opinion and I want to argue with him because we often see things differently. I know for certain that the most important factor he weighs for every vote is what is in the best interest of his constituents and what they would want him to do.

JERRY embraces the concept of compromise. Many newer Members see compromise as defeat—but they are wrong and, hopefully, someday soon they will realize their folly. Compromise is essential to advance any society—our founders knew it, democracy demands it. Compromise does not mean declaring victory on every aspect of every issue—it means having a clear goal and knowing when you cannot achieve it, it means recognition that some progress is usually better than none, it means that you accept the fact that other people have valuable opinions that they hold as dearly as you hold yours. Unless your constituents want no changes to anything in life, compromise is essential.

JERRY is also a true friend. To me, a friend is not the person who simply tells you how wonderful and correct you are all the time. A true friend knows how to tell you when you are wrong. A true friend stands by you when they can and doesn't hurt you when they cannot. JERRY is a true friend.

Finally, JERRY COSTELLO has his priorities straight—God, country, family, constituents. Religious beliefs are personal. I have told you what he has done for his country and his constituents. But a complete person also has a private life of friends and family. As a friend, I have often heard JERRY boast about his entire family—his parents, his wife, his children, and grandchildren.

As you can see by now, I think JERRY COSTELLO is a wonderful person. I will miss him on the floor. I will miss him in Committee. I will miss sharing an evening meal together. But more importantly, Congress will miss him. America will survive and prosper after he leaves Congress; thankfully, none of us is that important to this House. But JERRY COSTELLO will not be easily replaced in these halls and he will be remembered as a good Member of Congress and a good man.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the tireless service and dedication of my friend and colleague, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO of Illinois. Congressman COSTELLO has announced his retirement from the House at the end of the 112th Congress after 24 years of faithful and effective service to the people of the 12th Congressional District of Illinois.

Known to his friends and colleagues simply as ''JERRY,'' Congressman COSTELLO began his career shortly after graduating from high school, working as a law enforcement officer while attending Maryville University. In 1980, Congressman COSTELLO was elected Chairman of the St. Clair County Board, the chief executive of one of Illinois' largest counties, where he gained valuable leadership experience. In 1988, JERRY was elected to Congress.

I have had the privilege of working closely with JERRY throughout my tenure on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, on which he has been an influential and a senior Democratic member. JERRY is perhaps the leading expert in the House on aviation issues and I feel fortunate to have been a member of the Aviation Subcommittee when he chaired the panel during the 110th and 111th Congress. Congressman COSTELLO also served as the second ranking Democrat on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, playing a leading role in writing and passing several major pieces of legislation to improve our Nation's infrastructure and technological advancement.

As Chair of Aviation Subcommittee, JERRY played an indispensible role in passing the $68 billion Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act. JERRY has worked to pass

major bills for our Nation's transportation infrastructure, including obtaining a significant grant for a new Mississippi River Bridge. He also secured the passage of the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009.

JERRY has been a champion of bipartisanship throughout his tenure in the House, and is deeply respected by members on both sides of the aisle. He refused to allow partisanship to keep him from finding the common ground necessary to advance the interests of his constituents and the American people.

JERRY's talent for finding common ground enabled him to assemble and lead the coalition that saved Scott Air Force Base from closure and led his constituents to dub him affectionately as the ''Patron Saint of Scott AFB.''

I am honored to count JERRY as one of my close friends and colleagues. Throughout his tenure, JERRY has proven to be a shining example of the type of dedication and devotion we should all strive to match. I have long been an admirer of Congressman COSTELLO's work, and we will all surely feel the loss of his presence.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman COSTELLO is a Member's Member: honorable, hardworking, selfless, and dedicated to public service. It has been an honor to serve with him in the People's House. I wish JERRY and his family success and happiness as he embarks upon the next phase of his remarkable career of service, all the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to have had a chance to serve in Congress with my colleague and friend, Representative JERRY COSTELLO.

Beloved by his constituents, Congressman COSTELLO has been a staple in southern Illinois for many years. For me personally, he has been a model, a mentor and an example of how to succeed.

In an age of hyper-partisanship, Congressman COSTELLO fearlessly crosses the aisle for his district. Last year, he even championed the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

I've also had the pleasure of collaborating with the Congressman on two committees: Science, Space and Technology, and Transportation and Infrastructure. He has been such a mentor for me on these committees during my first term in Congress, and has been a great ally, especially on transportation issues and 2nd amendment rights.

Congressman COSTELLO will be sorely missed, both on these two committees and in the Illinois delegation. On behalf of my staff and the people of the 14th, I thank him sincerely for his service.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, today, we take time to honor our friend and colleague Congressman JERRY COSTELLO, who retires this year after 24 proud years representing the 12th District of Illinois.

Throughout his career, JERRY earned the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and is known as a man dedicated to his family, his community, and public service.

Born and raised in East Saint Louis, JERRY spent his career representing his friends and neighbors first as the Chairman of the St. Clair County Board, and then as a Member of Congress.

Since coming to Washington, JERRY has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, Illinois farmers, the transportation community and Scott Air Force Base. The State of Illinois will certainly miss having such a senior legislator and consummate professional in Congress.

But this body's loss is the gain of the entire Costello family, especially his wife Georgia, their three children and eight grandchildren. I wish them all the best as they embark on this new chapter of their lives, and congratulate Congressman JERRY COSTELLO on a career of service to Southwestern Illinois.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague and the Dean of the Illinois Delegation, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO.

Congressman COSTELLO has been a fixture of these halls since his arrival in 1988. Since my own arrival to Congress in 1993, I have known JERRY COSTELLO to be a kind, diligent, and caring public servant for the people of Illinois and the United States.

Whether working towards FAA reauthorization, creating local jobs, or saving Scott Air Force Base from closure, JERRY COSTELLO has shaped and improved Southwestern Illinois.

I will miss JERRY COSTELLO's collegiality and his leadership. Just because he is departing Congress does not mean there is not much work left for him to do. I look forward to seeing what the next chapter of his life brings and, on behalf of my wife, Carolyn, myself, and the people of the First Congressional District of Illinois, I wish him well on his journey.

Congratulations, JERRY!

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of JERRY COSTELLO, who will be retiring at the end of the 112th Congress. We need more Members of Congress like JERRY—Representatives who are willing to reach across the aisle and work to get the job done regardless of party.

There is no limit to what you can accomplish when you don't care who gets the credit. JERRY is one of those guys, and his commitment to Illinois and our country will definitely be missed.

JERRY has served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and has helped enact national highway policy to improve our country's roads and bridges. This is a bipartisan issue and after nine term extensions I am glad that this Congress came together to pass the first multiyear highway bill since 2005. JERRY has been extremely strong on transportation and infrastructure issues and future representatives will have large shoes to fill.

JERRY is a committed family man and early on in my first term, I quickly realized how hard it is to be away from your wife and children so frequently. I respect him for keeping his family home in Illinois, traveling to DC to serve, and returning home. Public service is about serving the people, not serving one's own self.

Over the past 24 years, the people of the 12th district have been fortunate to call JERRY COSTELLO their Congressman. His leadership, bipartisanship, hard work, and dedication to public service will not soon be forgotten. On behalf of the 17th district, I wish Congressman COSTELLO a happy and healthy retirement. Than you for your service.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise toddy to honor a great statesman, a great chairman, and a man who always put his district first. When Congressman COSTELLO retires after a long and distinguished career of service, he will be missed not only be his colleagues, but by the institution of Congress itself.

I am proud to have worked with JERRY COSTELLO as we fought for critical transportation infrastructure funding to prepare our county for the future. His leadership as Chairman and Ranking Member of the Aviation Subcommittees made the world's aviation system more efficient and safer, while facing some of the most challenging times for the industry.

I enjoyed traveling with JERRY and his lovely wife Georgia, who offered great support both personally and professionally for her husband. Together, we went on various congressional delegation fact finding missions to further our understanding of comparative transportation systems around the world, and to augment U.S. relations abroad, particularly with respect to cooperation in the transportation and infrastructure sector.

During his many years of serving in the House, Congressman COSTELLO has always been regarded as a Member who can get things done because of his results-oriented focus, and bipartisan approach to issues. As a senior Democrat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the second ranking Democrat on the Science, Space and Technology Committee, he has played a major role in writing several major pieces of legislation while focusing on improving the nation's transportation-infrastructure system.

Examples of his effectiveness include helping to write two national highway bills, securing $150 million for a new Mississippi River Bridge in the last highway bill—one of the largest single earmarks in the legislation—and the passage of the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009. This legislation, the strongest aviation safety bill in over 50 years, enhances airline safety by significantly increasing the flight hours required for commercial first officers and strengthening pilot training.

Additionally, Congressman COSTELLO served four years as Chairman of the House Aviation Subcommittee and now serves as the subcommittee's senior Democrat. In 2007, he wrote and helped pass a $68 billion bill in the House to reauthorize the programs of the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure that our aviation system remains the best and safest in the world. Two years later, he reintroduced the legislation and it passed the House once again.

In closing, Congressman COSTELLO will be missed in Washington not only for his legislative accomplishments but for his good natured way of interacting with his colleagues and staff. A beloved family man, and a Member who is very well liked on both sides of the political aisle, JERRY contributed a great deal both to the Committee on Transportation and to a general feeling of political collegiality on Capitol Hill.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleague and my dear friend Representative JERRY COSTELLO for his 24 years of outstanding service to his district, Illinois and the country. Although he is retiring from Congress at the end of this year, his impact will be long-lasting.

Since arriving in Congress in 1999, I have been very fortunate to have JERRY COSTELLO to rely on for advice and guidance. He and then-Representative Ray LaHood, now Secretary of Transportation, convened routine meetings of the Illinois House delegation to discuss how we could work together to meet the needs of our state. A fierce advocate for

Southwestern and Southern Illinois, JERRY was eager to help all parts of the state obtain federal assistance and meet the needs of our constituents. Our delegation may have had disagreements on policy, but we were united in our desire to bring funding to Illinois to create jobs, improve access to health care, help farmers, and promote Illinois businesses.

It wasn't until I had been in Congress for a while that I realized not every state delegation met in this manner. It was because of the leadership of JERRY COSTELLO, his dedication to getting things done and his ability to work in a bipartisan manner that the Illinois delegation could get together not just to talk but to achieve concrete results.

Throughout his career, JERRY COSTELLO has been a real workhorse. As a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure and ranking Democrat on the Aviation Subcommittee, he has shaped transportation policy and is responsible for unprecedented improvements in aviation safety. He is a recognized expert on transportation issues and he is known for his commitment to protecting the interests of travelers, riders and passengers and the rights of transportation workers. He has brought his policy interests to other areas as well—from his role on the Science, Space and Technology Committee to his interests in agriculture, education and children.

JERRY COSTELLO is the go-to leader of the Illinois House delegation and it is easy to see why. It is not just that he loves the state of Illinois and the House of Representatives. It is not just that he can put together strategies to pass legislation or bring federal assistance to his district. It is his entire being—a calm but determined demeanor, a common-sense approach to problem-solving, and a welcoming attitude for his beloved constituents and his colleagues. Throughout my time in Congress, JERRY has been generous in sharing with me his time and his talents—and for that I am extremely grateful.

I have also been happy to get to know JERRY's wonderful wife, Georgia. Georgia, the president of Southwestern Illinois College and advocate for the Illinois Green Economy Network, also brings the spirit of public service to her work in improving our community.

JERRY, your record of accomplishment over the past 24 years is enormous. While you are retiring from the House of Representatives, I know that you and Georgia will continue to work to improve the lives of Illinoisans. I thank you for your friendship that I hope will endure and for all you've done for our great state.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. COSTELLO.

Next year, at the beginning of the 113th Congress, I will reluctantly assume the title of Dean of the Illinois delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives. I say reluctantly because two things are true. One, to paraphrase Groucho Marx, I would never want to be a Member of a Delegation that would have me as its Dean. Secondly, I have tremendous shoes to fill and a hard act to follow.

The current Dean is my friend, colleague, and mentor Rep. JERRY COSTELLO, who will leave the House at the end of his current term. It saddens me that he is leaving the House and bequeathing the title of Dean to me.

JERRY was re-elected twelve times to represent the people of the exotic and—at least to us in the City of Chicago—distant lands in southern Illinois, anchored by the City of Bellville, JERRY's home town. He has served his district, the people of Illinois and the people of the United States with distinction for 24 years.

His diligent work as a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Aviation Subcommittee, and the Science, Space and Technology Committee teaches an important lesson to young Congressmen and women: specialize. JERRY has made transportation a central theme in his career and the work he has done to ensure that infrastructure and transportation systems in Southern Illinois are world class is but one testament to his success.

Together with his wife, Georgia, the distinguished President of Southwestern Illinois College, I know JERRY will continue serving the people of Illinois in some capacity. It is in his nature.

When I came into the House in 1993, JERRY had already been here for more than two terms and helped young people like me find our way. Over the years, we developed a friendship and a kinship. Even as Democrats from the same State, I could not always vote for what he supported and he could not always vote for what I supported, but we could always look beyond that.

The people of Illinois may not even realize it yet, but they will miss JERRY in the House of Representatives. The Democratic Caucus probably doesn't realize how much we will miss JERRY. But I know how much I will miss JERRY and I wish him tremendous success and good luck.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring Congressman JERRY COSTELLO on his 24 years of service to this body and the great State of Illinois. As dean of our delegation, Congressman COSTELLO set a great example, especially for me and other freshman Members from our State. He has been a helpful institutional resource and a strong champion for the needs of Illinois.

Congressman COSTELLO has a long tradition of legislative leadership, particularly on transportation issues. During his time in the House, he worked diligently with Members on both sides of the aisle to improve transportation infrastructure across this country. I appreciate his strong work ethic, and commitment to achieving results through a bipartisan manner, and believe this chamber and this country is better for it.

Most importantly, I want to applaud Congressman COSTELLO's unwavering commitment to his constituents in the 12th District of Illinois. For the last quarter century, he has been their strongest advocate in Congress, and the communities in southern Illinois have benefited greatly from his leadership.

I would also like to recognize Congressman COSTELLO's family—his wife, Dr. Georgia COSTELLO, and his three children, Jerry, Gina, and John Patrick—for supporting him during his storied tenure. I wish Congressman COSTELLO and his family all of the best as he leaves Congress, and hope that he finds happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, throughout his career as a public servant, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO has displayed a commitment to his fellow citizens, starting with his career in law enforcement and transitioning to become a very successful court administrator. In 1980, he was elected chairman of the St. Clare County Board and acted as its chief executive for 8 years until being elected to Congress from Illinois' 12th district. Congressman COSTELLO's wife, Georgia, has also displayed a dedication to the people and communities of southern Illinois, working as a teacher, school principal, administrator, and most recently, the President of Southwestern Illinois College.

Throughout his 24 years in Congress, Congressman COSTELLO has been a tireless advocate for the 12th district, working to improve the region's economy and enhance its transportation infrastructure. As a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman COSTELLO helped write two highway bills that included funds for many local projects, including the construction of the New Mississippi River Bridge. He led the push to construct the MetroLink Light Rail, a rail system connecting St. Clare County to the St. Louis region. In addition, Congressman COSTELLO was instrumental in developing southern Illinois' clean-coal industry, working to secure research and funding grants for various local universities.

Congressman COSTELLO served four years as the Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, helping to shepherd numerous airline safety and Federal Aviation Administration reform bills into law. One of his most significant legislative accomplishments is helping to write the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009, a bill that increased the required number of commercial pilot training hours and set new rules to limit pilot fatigue.

For his work protecting and enhancing the Scott Air Force Base, Congressman COSTELLO has been recognized as the base's ''Patron Saint.'' He championed the base through numerous rounds of the Base Realignment and Closure process from 1995–2005, establishing Scott as one of America's leading Air Force bases. His efforts not only preserved the base, but brought the Army's Surface Deployment and Distribution Command and added 800 jobs the region.

In my two years working with Congressman COSTELLO, I have had the privilege to get to know and learn from him. The Illinois delegation will surely miss his expertise and leadership. He leaves behind a legacy of being able to work with any Member, regardless of party, to get the job done and do what's best for the Nation. I am grateful for the time during which I was able to call Congressman COSTELLO my colleague and friend, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and fellow Illinois Representative, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO.

I can say with sincerity that JERRY COSTELLO, after 24 years of dedication, has gone above and beyond in every way possible to serve the 12th District of Illinois and this nation. Throughout his tenure, Congressman COSTELLO has worked tirelessly to improve the economic standing of Southern Illinois, as well as foster positive change for this nation.

JERRY COSTELLO has been one of the most ardent workers for improving national transportation and has received many honors and recognition over the years for his work on agricultural issues of great importance to Illinois

farmers. With his bipartisan approach to issues, Congressman COSTELLO has garnered results time and again for the State of Illinois.

Not only do Congressman COSTELLO and I share this strong, cross-party attitude, but we also sit together on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Through our work together, I have witnessed first-hand the amount of effort and hard work that he has put into the improvement of transportation infrastructure in the 12th District of Illinois as well as nationwide. Most importantly Congressman COSTELLO never left his district and always came back to Illinois after the session was over. This enabled him to truly stay grounded and in touch with his constituents.

I would take this moment to honor Congressman COSTELLO and all his years of service. Thank you, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO and congratulations on your numerous achievements. I wish you the best of luck in all future endeavors.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, as we are approaching the final days of the 112th Congress, I want to join with so many other House Members in paying tribute to my friend and colleague, Representative JERRY COSTELLO.

While JERRY and I have served together on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for over 20 years, I really have come to know and admire him during the last six years as we have served together in leadership positions on the Aviation Subcommittee. JERRY was Chairman for four years while I served as the ranking minority member, and this Congress that was reversed with the Republican majority.

But no matter which of us was Chairman, we forged a working relationship based on respect and a desire to work together on a bipartisan basis to get things done. And we have had a productive six years together. We passed the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009, one of the strongest safety bills to pass Congress in a long time. We spent a number of years working on a comprehensive FAA reauthorization bill, which culminated in the signing of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 on February 14, 2012.

We have been committed to providing oversight and support for the effort to modernize our air traffic control system, known as NextGen. As we were first starting out together with JERRY as Chairman back in 2007, we discovered the FAA could not even succinctly tell us just what NextGen actually was. We determined then that a major priority for us was to do all that we could to make sure this program was on track, that the FAA was held accountable for management of the program, and that other stakeholders be involved and consulted in this effort. Just this morning, we held our final NextGen oversight hearing, and I believe that we have been an effective team over the years on this program which is so critical to the future of our aviation system.

There has been much well-deserved concern expressed about the lack of civility and bipartisanship these days in the House. JERRY and I have shown that, even though you may not always agree, when you work through issues to actually accomplish something rather than just trying to score political points, we can do things that improve our nation.

JERRY is one of the workhorses of the House who has been an effective Representative for the 12th District of Illinois. He is a decent and honorable man, and I consider it an honor to have served and worked together with him. My best wishes go to JERRY, his wife Georgia, and the entire family as they begin this new phase in their lives.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, for more than two decades, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO of Illinois has served the people of his district and his state with distinction. Congressman COSTELLO represents the type of individual we need here in this body to advance the important business of our country. As a thoughtful, fair, and dedicated representative, he is held in high esteem by colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to serve with him on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and see firsthand the knowledge and passion that he brings to his role as a leader on the Committee. His Committee colleagues and I have the greatest respect for him, always valuing his opinion on the important issues before us.

While JERRY will be truly missed in the halls of Congress, I thank him for his service and wish him well on his next endeavor. I know that his wife Georgia, his children, and grandchildren will be glad to have more time to spend with him.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my colleague, Representative JERRY COSTELLO, who has announced his retirement at the end of this Congress. I am honored to have served with JERRY on two committees, and I respect and admire his bipartisan approach to our work here in Congress.

During my first term here in Congress, JERRY addressed an issue in the Science Committee with the force and backing to make a real impression on me. He has provided us all with a model of how a leader can engage in robust debate with respect and an open mind. Whenever a colleague approached JERRY, he has always been willing to listen and give valuable input.

Congressman COSTELLO has been a wonderful leader and colleague, providing us with a great example of how we can accomplish things in Congress to benefit the areas we represent. The entire country and I thank JERRY for his 24 years of service to his constituents in Illinois and to all Americans, and while I am sorry to see him go, I wish him the best in his next endeavors.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, even though the Science Committee prides itself on bipartisanship, at times, the discussions got a little heated. Luckily, we've had JERRY COSTELLO there to help cool things off. JERRY's business-like approaches and pleasant smile have always been a positive factor in getting things done. Unlike so many of us, JERRY likes to listen as much as he likes to talk. This unique characteristic actually enabled him to disagree in a very agreeable way.

In short, even those of us who do not agree on particular issues, respect and like JERRY COSTELLO. He will be missed on both a personal and professional level. I wish him the best because he has been one of the best.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my dear friend and colleague Congressman JERRY COSTELLO.

For 24 years Mr. COSTELLO has served the people of Southwestern and Southern Illinois with a will and determination I have long admired. As a member of the Illinois delegation, I have often looked towards his bipartisan work ethic and unique ability to reach across the aisle as a reminder of what can be achieved when lawmakers put the American people before themselves. Congressman COSTELLO ''gets it.'' He's a man of character who has never lost sight of his ultimate purpose: to serve the people of Illinois' 12th District.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman COSTELLO is also a man who has never shied away from working hard to make his goals a reality. After high school, he worked full time as a law enforcement officer in order to pay his way through college. He went on to serve his community administering the region's court services system, and in 1980 he was elected Chairman of the St. Clair County Board.

After proving his ability as a leader, the good people of Southwestern and Southern Illinois saw fit to send Mr. COSTELLO to Congress in 1988, and he took his vision for a new regional Illinois transportation network to the national level. As a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he has worked tirelessly to expand transit, having championed the $670 million Mississippi Bridge between Madison County and downtown St. Louis. In addition, through his role on the Aviation Subcommittee, he helped pass some of the toughest aviation safety laws our country has seen in over half a century.

It is because of efforts like these that Congressman COSTELLO has established himself as one of Congress' most effective members, someone who can be counted on to get things done. For the past 24 years the people of the 12th Congressional District of Illinois could rest easy knowing that Congressman JERRY COSTELLO was working hard for them in Washington. His constituents, and those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him, know that if there is a tough task or issue to address, JERRY COSTELLO is the person to see it through.

Mr. COSTELLO has spent most of his life serving the public. He is admired by his family, district and his peers and rarely is there a member who has worked so well across party lines and accomplished so much during his time in office. I want to thank him for setting an ideal example that we should all strive for when we come to DC. It is part of the larger legacy he leaves in Congress, which will stay with many of us as we continue where he leaves off in working for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, JERRY COSTELLO's presence in the halls of Congress will be sorely missed. I am proud to call Congressman JERRY COSTELLO a friend and wish him all the best as he heads back to Illinois to seek new endeavors.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my distinguished friend and colleague from Illinois, JERRY COSTELLO, as he enters his final days serving the Prairie State in Congress.

JERRY has been a loyal advocate and dedicated fighter for the people of Southern and Southwestern Illinois in the U.S. House of Representatives. JERRY'S unyielding commitment to Illinois, however, dates back even further—to his early days working as a full-time law enforcement officer as he worked his way through college. No matter how far JERRY traveled, his heart has always remained with his community—and his family, at home in Belleville.

Since I first arrived in Congress in 2003, I have had the privilege of serving as a member

of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. During our service together, I have continually been impressed by JERRY's understanding of key issues, especially those pertaining to aviation, as well as his knowledge and passion for the legislative process.

Members of Congress and influential figures on both sides of the aisle have praised Jerry for his willingness to work across party lines to get things done for his constituents and the nation. As the rough winds of partisanship have made getting things done in Washington difficult, Illinois and Congress have benefitted from an experienced pilot who still believes that by working together, Congress can push ahead through turbulence to a better flight plan for our nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring my friend and colleague, JERRY COSTELLO, for his eleven terms in Congress and his continued dedication to our nation.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend and distinguished colleague from Illinois, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO. It is an honor for me to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to commend and thank him for his outstanding leadership and long record of service to this nation.

As this session's adjournment and his retirement approaches, I also wish to take this opportunity to thank JERRY for his friendship and guidance as my senior colleague on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, on which I have had the honor of serving with him since I was first elected in 2002. When I first met JERRY, he was already a veteran member of this body with a broad knowledge and understanding of the many important and complicated issues under our committee's jurisdiction.

JERRY's guidance and counsel in those early years were invaluable to me as a new Member. I have continued to look toward JERRY in this Congress as the standard-bearer for our committee with an unrivaled insight, institutional knowledge, and vision of the many complex issues facing our nation.

As the former chairman and now ranking member of the aviation subcommittee, JERRY has performed a critical service in shaping federal aviation policies to ensure our system remains unrivaled and the safest in the world. As a senior member of the Science, Space & Technology Committee, JERRY has proven there is no stronger advocate or more successful champion for our nation's space program or national STEM initiatives to better prepare students for a 21st Century economy.

Indeed, JERRY has achieved tremendous success and distinguished himself with an impeccable record of accomplishments in public service and leaves an indelible mark on the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Congressman JERRY COSTELLO the best of luck in his future endeavors and bid the gentleman from Illinois a fond farewell.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the congressional career of our colleague, the gentleman and legislator from Illinois' 12th Congressional District, JERRY COSTELLO. It is hard to imagine this Congress, the Science, Space and Technology, SST, Committee, and the Transportation and Infrastructure, T&I, Committee without him as he retires at the end of the 112th Congress. I am happy that he is leaving on his own terms and I wish him every happiness as he moves on to the next phase of life.

When I became a Member of the House of Representatives in 2008, I was new to elected public office. I was given the opportunity to serve on the SST and T&I Committees, both of which I have had the honor of serving with Representative COSTELLO. As a new Member of Congress, there are certain members you observe and seek to emulate. Right away, I admired Rep. COSTELLO's preparation, diligence, and his quiet and tempered leadership.

Throughout my time in the House, I have seen Representative COSTELLO exhibit these qualities time and time again. That is likely why he has managed a feat rare in this day and age, being admired by both Democrats and Republicans as a man who exemplifies public service.

On the T&I Committee, Rep. COSTELLO fought to make air travel safer with the passage of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007. Responding to the crash of a commuter airplane outside of Buffalo, NY, he sought to improve safety standards to ensure better pilot training in 2009.

He has fought tirelessly over his 26 years in the House of Representatives for his constituents by expanding critical infrastructure in the 12th Congressional District of Illinois, growing the local economy, and bringing good paying jobs to the region. Southern Illinois is better off to have had such vigorous and able leadership.

All of us in this institution are referred to as the gentlelady or gentleman from the day we are sworn in as a Member of this body. However, Rep. COSTELLO truly deserves that title since he is a true gentleman. His retirement will leave a void in this House that cannot be filled.

My first four years in Congress, the House of Representatives, and our country are better off thanks to JERRY COSTELLO's public service and efforts. I wish you JERRY, your wife Georgia Cockrum Costello, your children Jerry II, Gina, and John Patrick, and your eight grandchildren continued success, happiness, and hopefully some well-earned rest. I know they have been of tremendous support to you in your service to this House and our nation. You leave behind a legacy of service that others can and should aspire to.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congressman JERRY COSTELLO, my colleague on the Science, Space and Technology Committee, who is retiring at the end of this Congress after 24 years of service to Illinois' 12th Congressional district.

Congressman COSTELLO began serving his community long before he was an elected official. As a college student, Mr. COSTELLO helped make communities safer by working as a law enforcement officer. Though hard work, dedication and leadership, Mr. COSTELLO earned the respect and trust of his peers, leaders throughout the State of Illinois and most importantly, his community. A few years after graduating from Maryville University, Mr. COSTELLO was elected as Chairman of the St. Clair County Commission Board. Fittingly, when his community was searching for an exceptional leader to replace 22-term Congressman Melvin Price, they turned to Mr. COSTELLO. Over the next 24 years, he would lead his community through some of its most challenging times.

When the Scott Air Force Base, one of his district's largest employers, was facing closure, they turned to Congressman COSTELLO. He not only stood up for them, he delivered. In addition to convincing the Department of Defense (DOD) to keep the base open, he worked with them to bring hundreds of additional jobs to the region.

Congressman COSTELLO has worked in a bipartisan manner to make flying safer and strengthen our nation's infrastructure. He helped write and pass legislation that has pumped billions of dollars into our nation's infrastructure, and heightened aviation industry standards. As Chairman of the House Aviation Subcommittee, Congressman COSTELLO prioritized passenger safety, held airline companies accountable and pushed for innovations rather than accept the status-quo.

While he will be missed in Washington, through his countless contributions, his presence will linger. His wife Georgia, three children, eight grandchildren and constituents will be happy to have him home.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman COSTELLO epitomizes what it means to be a public servant. I am grateful for his 24 years of service to our nation and I encourage my fellow members of Congress to commend him for his service. Thank you Congressman COSTELLO.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute my friend and colleague, Mr. COSTELLO on over two decades of admirable service to our country and especially to the people of Southern Illinois.

I have been honored to serve with Mr. COSTELLO as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where I have seen firsthand his skill at working on a bipartisan basis to improve our nation's transportation infrastructure. As the Ranking Member of the Aviation Subcommittee, his patience and willingness to work with all Members of Congress was critical in the passage of the recent Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill.

He has provided leadership, guidance and a long-term vision of how we can move our country forward. I am thankful for his friendship and advice over the years, and I wish him the best in his future steps.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the retirement of my dear friend, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO. During his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, his absolute dedication to the 12th district of Illinois, and his success in passing beneficial legislation has gained him the admiration of colleagues and constituents alike. He is fully committed to the prosperity of the economy, the well-being of his constituents, as well as solving the issues of the day.

As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Congressman COSTELLO made his mark through the improvement of the transportation industry for both his district and the nation. He is responsible for the creation of MetroLink extension in St. Clair county and for funding the construction of the Mississippi River Bridge. Congressman COSTELLO is also an active member of the Aviation Subcommittee and the Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee. He worked relentlessly to pass the Airline Safety and the Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009, the strongest aviation safety legislation in fifty years, following a passenger jet crash killing fifty-one people. Congressman COSTELLO will also always be remembered as

''the patron saint of Scott Air Force Base,'' for preventing the base's closure in Belleville, IL during the Base Realignment and Closure process and for expanding its operations.

As a senior member of the House Committee of Science and Technology, Congressman COSTELLO is known for his dedication to developing clean coal technology and for providing a voice for Illinois farmers and workers. Due to his many accomplishments, he won the ''Friend of Agriculture Award'' three times since 2004, the ''Labor Man of the Year Award'' in 2010, and countless other awards and recognitions.

Having served with him since I was first elected into Congress, I am truly honored to have worked with such a dedicated and passionate member of the House. I am grateful to call Congressman COSTELLO my friend, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great colleague, a wonderful Member of this House, and a very dear friend, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO.

I have had the great privilege of serving with JERRY COSTELLO on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee since I've been in Congress. Over the years, I have learned so much from JERRY and have enjoyed our partnership on the Committee.

During his twenty-four years in Congress, JERRY has been a passionate advocate for his constituents and improving the transportation infrastructure in the Illinois 12th Congressional District. As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Aviation Subcommittee, he has been a tireless champion of general aviation and modernizing our aviation system. His effective leadership and extensive knowledge of these issues have led to countless infrastructure improvements in his district and state.

JERRY's commitment to service extended beyond Illinois. When visiting my home state of Iowa, JERRY took the time to meet with some of my constituents to understand the transportation needs of our state and see how potential investments would affect our communities. He took the concerns of Iowans as seriously as those of his own constituents and made certain that these concerns were addressed in Washington.

I will greatly miss working with him, but I wish him and his family my very best wishes for a very bright future.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a cherished colleague and dear friend in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman JERRY COSTELLO. After more than twenty-three years of dedicated public service, Congressman COSTELLO will be retiring from the U.S. Congress. Congressman COSTELLO is a true statesman, and he will be sorely missed.

Congressman COSTELLO is a stellar example of the commitment needed to be an effective public servant. He began his public service at an early age, working in law enforcement while attending college. He has built his career on bipartisanship and dependability, and has always kept the needs of his constituents and the American people foremost in his mind and close to his heart. Congressman COSTELLO is a devoted family man, who treasures his wife, Georgia, their three children, and eight grandchildren. His compassion has given Congressman COSTELLO a unique perspective, making him that much more effective as a Member of Congress.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with Congressman COSTELLO on both the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Science, Space, and Technology. He is an effective legislator, and has shown an unwavering commitment to furthering scientific research and building our Nation's infrastructure. Having served both as Chairman and Ranking Member on the Aviation Subcommittee, Congressman COSTELLO continues to work with his colleagues on a bipartisan basis to improve the safety and innovation of the aviation industry.

Mr. Speaker, the bonds that we form with our fellow colleagues in Congress are unlike anything else, and the friendship Congressman COSTELLO and I have developed over the years is very special to me. The House of Representatives is losing a distinguished colleague, and the constituents of the 12th District of Illinois are losing a loyal advocate. I have immense respect for Congressman COSTELLO. I will miss him dearly, and I wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of JERRY COSTELLO. In this vast body, JERRY is well known and admired by Members on both sides of the aisle. Republicans and Democrats alike have praised his tenure since JERRY announced retirement last October. He has served since 1988 and I have had the pleasure of sitting with him on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for nearly five years.

Serving four years as Chairman of the House Aviation Committee, and now as the Ranking Member, JERRY has been able to drive sound policy to make sure that America's skies are safe. JERRY wrote and played an instrumental role in passing legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he helped write national highway bills and secure $150 million for the Mississippi River Bridge in his district. JERRY gets the job done and I have been enriched by sitting on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with him.

JERRY has been a true and effective advocate for Illinois's 12th Congressional district. His list of accomplishments is long and he truly cares about protecting the interests of his constituents. For example, he was not only able to keep Scott Air Force Base open during several rounds of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, but JERRY added 800 jobs. The base is Illinois's largest employer south of Springfield.

While the halls of Congress and particularly the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will be less bright, I know that JERRY will find joy in his next journey back home in Illinois. I wish him and his family all the best.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I rise today to remember and honor the congressional career of my good friend, JERRY COSTELLO. JERRY and I have served together for the last twenty years.

Not only do I consider JERRY a dear friend, but he is also a mentor. He was there to provide sound advice and tutelage when I joined the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the 105th Congress. He is widely seen as a leader in Congress on transportation issues. JERRY and I also worked closely together on matters concerning the people of Ireland. JERRY never forgot his ancestral roots in trying to better the lives for the Irish.

It wasn't only in matters before Congress that JERRY provided guidance, but also in life. I had the great fortune of sharing the same travel agent as JERRY which has enriched my life greatly.

JERRY, you will be greatly missed in this body and Congress will greatly miss you. I wish you all the best in your next endeavors and know you will bring your pragmatic approach to the task at hand.

Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, please join me in celebrating my dear friend, JERRY COSTELLO.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my great friend and colleague, the distinguished senior member from Illinois, Mr. COSTELLO, as he prepares to retire at the conclusion of the 112th Congress.

Congressman COSTELLO has been a trusted friend and mentor to me for the last twelve years.

When I first arrived as a freshman Member of Congress in 2001, Congressman COSTELLO was here to greet me and guide me along the right path.

And over the years, I have continued to rely on his good advice and wise counsel.

His departure is a great loss for the State of Illinois, the citizens of the 12th district, and the St. Louis regional delegation.

For the last twenty-four years, Mr. COSTELLO has been a tireless advocate for southern Illinois and metro east.

He has been a champion for rebuilding and enhancing our transportation infrastructure.

The magnificent new Mississippi River Bridge that is currently under construction will be a powerful symbol of his legacy of leadership.

Congressman COSTELLO has also been the patron saint of Scott Air Force Base—the largest employer in southern Illinois.

Our region, and indeed, our nation are stronger because of his continuous efforts to preserve and expand this vital national defense asset.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great blessing to have had the opportunity to serve with Congressman COSTELLO and to call him my good friend.

I honor him for his service to his state, the St. Louis region and our nation.

And I salute him on a remarkable congressional career.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of this body's finest members, Congressman JERRY F. COSTELLO, for his long-time service to the Congress.

Mr. COSTELLO has worked on behalf of the people of southern Illinois for more than 24 years, passionately bringing their concerns with him to Washington and diligently partnering with his colleagues to get the job done.

Beyond his service to the people of Illinois' 12th District, Congressman COSTELLO has been a steadfast leader for our nation's transportation infrastructure. He was instrumental in the creation of national highway bills that have become the groundwork for a more prosperous America, and a tireless advocate for aviation measures that have made our skies safer and our airlines stronger.

It has been a privilege to serve in this House with Congressman COSTELLO, and I am proud today to stand with my colleagues and pay tribute to his distinguished career and leadership. We salute a gentleman who has

made a positive impact on the lives of those he has served, and who leaves a legacy worthy of this institution. I wish him, his wife Georgia, and his family well on their future endeavors.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise and salute my friend and colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Illinois' 12th district, JERRY COSTELLO, as he prepares to conclude 24 years of service to his country and the people of southern Illinois as a Member of the House of Representatives. I have worked with JERRY regularly over the years on a number of bills and issues, but he and I collaborated especially closely these past two years on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as we worked to pass a long-term Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill. And at every juncture, I never failed to be impressed by his earnest and apparent desire to do right by his constituents and the American people.

JERRY first came to Congress as a freshman Member of the Illinois Delegation after his election in 1988, but, even before he took the oath of office, he had already distinguished himself as a faithful public servant of the people of Illinois through his service in the state court system and then as chief executive of one of Illinois' largest counties. JERRY came to Congress—and this was apparent to me from some of my earliest collaboration with him—with a strong sense of duty to his constituents and to the public at large. For 24 years, this has been reflected in the strong spirit of bipartisanship in which JERRY works with our colleagues across the aisle. He finds compromises where others cannot.

Whether working with JERRY to advance clean coal or to make our aviation system safer and stronger, I always got the sense he was practically an expert in the subject matter. And, indeed, he was. In 2007, he was instrumental in helping write and secure House passage of a $68 billion FAA reauthorization. He worked to pass the bill again in 2009, and he negotiated tirelessly with the other body to enact a final bill before the clock ran out last Congress.

Moreover, in the aftermath of the tragic crash of Colgan Flight 3407 in 2009, JERRY wrote and worked in a bipartisan manner to pass an airline safety bill that called for the strongest aviation safety improvements in more than 40 years. The bill made sweeping airline safety and pilot training reforms that have made the traveling public safer. JERRY's vision, knowledge, and leadership resulted in those reforms becoming law.

This Congress, JERRY and I worked very closely as we negotiated with our House and Senate colleagues on a long-term FAA bill. Before that process began, there were probably some who thought "slots" are something you might find in Vegas or Atlantic City. But JERRY would patiently explain the other type of "slots" that loomed large over the FAA bill: slots for airlines to fly to Washington National Airport. Explaining slots—or any complex aviation issue, for that matter—JERRY would boil down years of legislation, rulemaking, and airline mergers and bankruptcies into a few simple words that reflect his good Midwestern common sense.

When JERRY retires at the end of this Congress, we will lose the benefit of his institutional memory, his knowledge of aviation issues from top to bottom, and his bipartisan approach to solving problems and finding common ground. I have no doubt that JERRY's family—his wife, Georgia, his daughter and two sons, and his eight grandchildren—are looking forward to having him closer to home for longer periods of time. On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to thank them for sharing JERRY with us for these 24 years. His good work has made a tremendous difference not only for the people of his district, but for every American who flies, drives, or takes a train in this country.

Mr. Speaker, with great admiration, I salute my friend as he prepares to retire from this body, and I join with my colleagues in extending to him every best wish in his future endeavors.

GOP DOCTORS CAUCUS

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, as many of you may know, before coming to Congress, I was a physician in northern Michigan for nearly 30 years, and tonight I want to spend a little time talking to you about Medicare, the President's health care bill, and just health care in general.

In practice, many of my patients were on Medicare, and I know how important medical care is to our seniors. It's an important part of their ability to take care of themselves as they get older. Really, the reason I'm here today is to explain that the GOP and the Republicans want to preserve Medicare for our current seniors and for the youth that are coming up because right now the way Medicare is organized, the trust fund will be out of money within 10 to 12 years. Different accountants have different numbers. But basically, unless we do something, we're going to run out of money. We just don't want that to happen. I want to see people still have access to their care.

In discussing this issue, it seems as if we've been attacked for trying to end Medicare. But if you see that there's a problem with a system that is running out of money and you don't want to address it, that's just not right.

The Doctors Caucus in the House is 18 physicians, nurses, and dentists that represent different areas of the country, and we have a good understanding of health care as it exists right now in America. Certainly, there are problems with health care and access to it. And although we have great health care in America, the problem is it's too expensive. Frankly, the President's health care bill makes it more difficult to keep Medicare viable. Those are a few of the things I want to talk to you about this evening, just touch on to let you understand what I think about how the system is working and how we can improve it.

I don't think it's a partisan issue. I think it's something that we need to discuss. Frankly, I just don't think that some of the people that have passed these laws in Congress really understood what they were doing. They admitted the fact that they passed the bill without really knowing what was in it. I just don't think that's really a good idea.

What is really the problem with Medicare? The problem is that the population of our country is changing. There are more older citizens than there were; in other words, there are 10,000 new Medicare beneficiaries being added each day. Right now, a little over three people are paying into the system for every person that is collecting. Because of the large numbers of people that are being added to the roles, within a few years there are only going to be two people paying in for each person collecting. That creates a problem in the fact that there are not as many people paying in as are receiving benefits. With the cost of health care going up, it makes it a fiscal cliff.

The other big problem that we see with the Medicare situation is the fact that the President's health care law, in order to pay for it, takes $700 billion out of Medicare. That's a lot of money to take out of Medicare and still expect it to provide care for our seniors, more and more of which are coming on to it every day. I think that there is certainly some waste, fraud, and abuse that can be eliminated, and that will help, but it's just not enough. We have to change the system.

The system that I think we should change to, frankly, is the system of PAUL RYAN and Mr. WYDEN of Oregon, who brought together a program where we can put some changes in for those people under 55 that will allow them to choose between different private insurance plans similar to what Federal employees and Members of Congress have. These private plans would be inspected and reviewed by the government to be sure that they're adequate and give people some flexibility in how they spend their money.

One of the problems I see with Medicare is that the government ends up deciding how to spend the money rather than the patient. The patient, to me, is the one whose money it is. The people who are spending the money should be the ones who are deciding how it's spent, not some government person or bureaucrat in Washington.

Show me the slide on the $700 billion. I just want to show people the slide that demonstrates what's happened to this money. I represent the northern half of Michigan. We have many small towns and small hospitals in my district. Every little town has their community hospital, and it's hours sometimes to the next facility.

□ 1820

This slide here shows the $716 billion coming out of the Medicare program, and $294 billion of that money is payments to hospitals. The President describes the Medicare cuts as cutting waste and overpayments to providers.

Well, these hospitals are the ones that are providing the care; and as a doctor, I'd be a provider as well.

But when you cut $294 billion from our local hospitals, I know, I served on the board of a hospital. Our hospitals are operating at a razor-thin profit margin. They have to stay in the black, otherwise they go out of business. They can't make their payroll. We've recently had a hospital in our district go bankrupt because of their problems with payments from Medicare.

This is going to continue to happen as we go forward if we allow this President's health care bill to continue with $156 billion cut from Medicare Advantage, $111 billion to be cut by IPAB and other provisions, $66 billion cut from home health care agencies, $39 billion cut from skilled nursing, $33 billion from FFS Medicare providers and $17 billion from hospice care.

These are crucial programs for our seniors. With more and more seniors coming into the program, how are they going to be provided care with less money? I don't see it happening.

What's going to happen is there are going to be fewer hospitals, fewer places for patients to get care, so it's going to be difficult; and in my district we may have to travel hundreds of miles to get seen. I think it's pretty darn scary, to tell you the truth.

Dr. HARRIS, another member of the Doctors Caucus, is here with us tonight. He's from Maryland, and he's an anesthesiologist.

Mr. HARRIS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HARRIS. On those lists of questions of those $716 billion that's basically going to be transferred from the Medicare program to pay for the President's new health care reform bill, that doesn't even include the over $300 billion to cuts in physician and provider payments over the next 10 years under the payment form; is that correct?

Mr. BENISHEK. That's right.

Mr. HARRIS. So it's in addition to that $700 billion. There's another $300 billion that's going to get cut from payments to providers. Here's the problem. You know, I think the gentleman from Michigan points it out.

Medicare is going broke, and it's going broke not only because $700 billion was taken out of it to pay for the President's Affordable Care Act, but another $300 billion is going to be taken out in the physician payment formula.

Now, the CMS actuaries, and that's the department that runs Medicare and Medicaid, actually projects that the Medicare program could be bankrupt as soon as 2016. Four years from now, the Medicare program could be bankrupt.

Now, I'm glad that as part of November's elections we're going to discuss the future of health care for our seniors, because it is time to say that the emperor has no clothes. Our seniors know it.

They know that when, God forbid, their physician retires, and they go and try to find another physician, and they're on Medicare, they already know how hard it is to find a physician who can accept them because the reimbursements are already so low.

The payments to physicians are so low already, it's hard to find that primary care doctor. It's hard to find that specialist who needs to take care of you, whether it's for your blood pressure or your diabetes or whatever problem you have; and the problem is only going to get worse.

Now, the President in his budget doesn't deal with it at all. He pretends that Medicare will go on forever and ever just the way it is now. That's just not true.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid say it could go broke in as little as 4 years. The Medicare actuaries give it the longest lifetime, 10 more years.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if you're 55 now, that means by the time you're 65, it's broke. If you're 61, according to the Centers for Medicare, it's broke by the time you reach age 65. And if you're on it now and you're 70, it could be broke by the time you're 74.

So we have to stop pretending that the Medicare program is going to work forever the way it is now. It won't, because the President took $700 billion from it to pay for the Affordable Care Act. There is a scheduled cut to physician payments and to provider payments of over $300 billion over the next 10 years, and our seniors are already having problems finding those physicians.

But in the Medicare costs, if we don't do anything right now, we don't deal with the program and adjust it for people who are younger—and I have a son who is 27 years old. He is an accountant. He knows numbers, and he knows them backwards and forwards and up and down, better at math than I ever was. He's convinced he will never see a Medicare program because he's seen the books.

Medicare payments are projected to grow substantially from approximately 3.5 percent of our economy to 5.5 percent of our economy by 2035, and the President has no plan to pay for that growth. We know because of the maturing and retiring of the baby boom generation that this is coming.

This is predictable. We can project this. We know that if we don't change the Medicare program to preserve it for future generations and to keep it for the current generation of Medicare recipients, it goes broke. As I mentioned, the physician payment formula in Medicare needs to be fixed or, starting January 1, payments to physicians and providers may go down 30 percent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if our seniors think it's hard to find someone to take care of them now on Medicare, what do they think it's going to be like when the government says to those physicians, we're going to pay you 30 percent less starting January 1, and this is all scheduled to happen.

The President has no plan. The President suggested no ideas to Congress on how to deal with that. What we need is leadership on health care, and we're not getting it from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Already access is an issue because back in 2008, 12 percent of physicians have said they have to stop seeing Medicare patients. We know now that a much larger number limit the number of Medicare patients they care for.

As the gentleman from Michigan knows, we didn't go to medical school to not take care of patients. We didn't go to medical school to have our staff answer a senior calling to say, I'm sorry, but we can't afford to take care of you. But that's exactly the position that the President's plan for Medicare is putting physicians and patients in right now. That's the sad fact.

This emperor has no clothes. The Medicare program is on a path to bankruptcy, and there is no plan from the White House to solve that problem. It merely kicks the can down the road.

We have heard a lot in the last few days and few weeks about Simpson-Bowles coming to the rescue. That's going to solve our fiscal problems; if we just adopt the Simpson-Bowles Commission, all our fiscal problems go away.

Mr. Speaker, as you probably know, Simpson-Bowles decided not to do anything about Social Security and Medicare.

Now, Social Security, it turns out, is pretty solvent. It's going to be there for at least another 20 years, giving us a fair amount of time to solve the problem for future generations. But, again, the Centers for Medicare says we may only have 4 years to solve the Medicare problem before it goes bankrupt.

If our seniors right now think they have problems now getting their health care and finding those primary care doctors and those specialists to take care of them, imagine when the program goes bankrupt.

Now, we have a choice. We can deal with it, or we can kick the can down the road. I'm proud of the Vice Presidential candidate, one of our colleagues, Mr. RYAN, who has decided that the time to kick the can down the road is over. It's time to tell our seniors and Americans what they suspect.

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We've been making promises we have no way of keeping. We have been spending money we don't have. And it has to stop. And as the gentleman from Michigan knows, we have some principles in our plan to deal with the bankruptcy of Medicare because, Mr. Speaker, it's not a question of if, it's only a question of when.

So there are a couple of principles. The first principle is: we don't change it for anyone over age 55. If you're in retirement or you're near retirement, you get to keep the very same program right now. But we deal with the fact that physician and provider pay would

be cut January 1. We solve that problem. We say you can't do that. That will limit access. So we deal with that issue. We say you have to stop taking $700 billion from the program to transfer it to pay for the new President's health care reform; to cover Americans who don't have insurance now by taking it from Medicare patients who do have insurance.

So the first principle, no one over age 55 is affected. The second principle is: for those under age 55, Mr. Speaker, if they're listening now, the program is going to be bankrupt when you reach age 65 if we don't do something. We're going to make some commonsense adjustments. We're going to say that you should have access to the same kind of care Congressmen and -women have—a broad range of health care plans you can choose from with the guarantee that for at least two of those plans you will have 100 percent coverage.

We all turn on the TV. We hear the ads: Mr. RYAN's plan will cost $120,000 for every senior, or $200,000 in more costs. Here's the problem. People who made the ads didn't read the bill. The bill spells it out quite clearly. Our plan is that seniors—again, people age 55, when they reach age 65—will have a choice of plans just like we have here in Congress. The only difference is we have to pay a part of all our plans. They don't pay for the two lowest-priced plans. If they choose a plan with more options, they may pay something. But they will end up paying even less than they do now.

That's our solution. Let market forces come in and control the cost of health care, control that growth in cost, and allow real coverage for our seniors, for our people age 55, when they reach age 65, and preserve it for future generations so that my son, the accountant, can look at that plan and say, You know what? This balances. You don't have to borrow money from the Chinese to pay for this plan. We don't have to raise taxes to pay for this plan. We actually let market forces work, providing the same coverage that people in Congress get. And it will work.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm very glad that we have the opportunity to talk about this tonight. I'm very glad that this November and in the months leading up to it we'll have an honest, frank discussion with the American people about the future of health care, the future of health care for our seniors, preserving it, and the future of health care for everyone else under the President's affordable care scheme. Because we know there are problems with it. Americans understand that when you put the government in charge of something so vital and personal as health care, real problems can occur. And as the gentleman from Michigan has pointed out, we know those problems. They're predictable problems. A majority of Americans have figured it out. Poll after poll after poll says we should deal with the President's Health Care Reform Act by repealing it and replacing it, keeping elements that are good.

Every American either has a preexisting condition or will have one in their lifetime. Every American. So our plan will have to deal with it. And it does deal with it. And for those people who want to have their children on their policies up until age 25, our plan can deal with it—and does deal with it. But we certainly don't need the Independent Payment Advisory Board, which the gentleman from Michigan is going to discuss, that is going to run health care for Medicare. We certainly don't need the Secretary of Health and Human Services prescribe what plans are going to cover what for every single American. Whether you want it or not, you're paying for it in your plan. Because we know that's only going to drive up the cost.

I'm glad that we're going to have that discussion with the American people because, Mr. Speaker, every American's health care is so important to them and their family. They deserve this discussion. They deserve the chance to go to the ballot box this November and make a choice about what their health care is going to look like in the future. And we're going to have a clear choice. It's going to be a government-run health care plan run by a bureaucrat where costs and access are controlled and rationed, or it's going to be one where the patient and their physician make the choice about their health care, with the government bureaucrat staying out of it, where they belong.

I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding.

Mr. BENISHEK. Thank you. I truly appreciate my colleague from Maryland taking a little time to be with us tonight and give us his insight as a physician here on the floor.

I would like to say a few words about IPAB. This is the Independent Payment Advisory Board. This is the mechanism that Mr. Obama's health care plan has for controlling costs. And really, what it is, it's 15 appointed bureaucrats, each making $165,000 a year, with no congressional oversight, whose only purpose is to reduce Medicare spending. So if the Medicare budget goes up too much and is over the limit, these guys in Washington are going to decide what to cut. They're going to decide if you deserve a PSA prostate test or deserve a mammogram or you deserve a colonoscopy. They're going to decide that they may not pay for that. If we don't act, this board could being making these kind of decisions as soon as 2015. Denial of payment for care is going to really lead to denial of care for our seniors. I don't think it's fair for these Washington bureaucrats who know nothing about the patient to be making these decisions.

I'm used to taking care of patients, and sometimes we have to make some really difficult decisions. But those decisions have been made between the physician, the patient, and the family, not some bureaucrat in Washington who doesn't know the patient and can't decide if this patient really qualifies for care and should not be denied. So I just think it's so wrong to allow bureaucrats that don't know the patient to be making these decisions, and I just want to make sure people understand the seriousness of this. There's no appeal from this board. There's no getting somebody off this board once they're appointed. It's really unbelievable.

Tonight, also, I have the pleasure of being joined by my colleague from New York, a nurse, Ms. BUERKLE of New York.

Thank you for joining us.

Ms. BUERKLE. Thank you very much to my friend and colleague from Michigan. Thank you for having this Special Order tonight. And I think it's so critical, Mr. Speaker, when the Docs Caucus has this event, and the people who are speaking are people are passionate about health care. Many of us actually came to Congress because we were so concerned regarding the Affordable Care Act. I spent my life as a nurse and later on as an attorney who represented a large teaching hospital. And so I am passionate about health care. As my colleague before me mentioned, there's nothing more personal than one's health care. And this Nation has the highest quality of health care, and we want to make sure we maintain the standard that we have.

I don't think anyone would disagree, Mr. Speaker, that this country needs health care reform. And while this law may have been the most well-intentioned, I disagreed with it philosophically when I decided to run for Congress. But now that I'm in Congress and I have had the opportunity to talk to so many folks in my district, this law, this Affordable Care Act that was supposed to decrease the cost of health care and increase access for Americans, is not going to do that. And let me, if I could, talk just briefly about what is going on in my district.

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My district is heavy with ''eds and meds,'' we call it. We have a lot of hospitals in my district, and they're the major employers.

Now, the hospitals have spoken to me. They're concerned because this Affordable Care Act, this ObamaCare law, will decrease the amount of disproportionate share moneys they give because they treat a population of patients who may not have insurance or who are underinsured. So they're concerned about their fiscal, their financial integrity. Those are the hospitals. Those are providers.

The Affordable Care Act doesn't address the SGR fix, the Medicare reimbursements for physicians. So I've got physicians who are concerned. It also creates a scenario where we will not have enough primary care physicians, internal medicine, psychiatry, those types of physicians who can even

render the care. So the providers are concerned, the actual people and facilities who render the care. They're concerned that this law is going to adversely affect them. That's my first concern.

My second concern are my seniors. And in all of this discussion and debate, I think the most disingenuous discussion that's going on out there is the denial as to what this law will do to seniors and their Medicare coverage. I think my colleague ahead of me talked about the moral obligation we have to our seniors. We have a contract with them that when you retire, when you turn 65, Medicare, you've paid into it all your life, and you will be able to have that benefit.

But this law, this Affordable Care Act, cuts Medicare by $716 billion. Now, there's no program in the world that will not be affected by the loss of that much funding and the funding that's being taken out of Medicare, and it's going to be used to fund the rest of the entitlement in this law.

So seniors really need to understand the threat to Medicare as we know it is this Affordable Care Act. And it has changed Medicare as we know it for our seniors, and this law will affect everyone who's on Medicare.

The discussion about the Ryan budget and the budget we passed out of the House, that discussion is only for those who are 54 and younger. So anyone who is 55 and above, with the Republican proposal for Medicare, can take a deep breath and they can say, My contract with this country, my benefit through Medicare will not be touched, and I can rely and count on that. That's a very important promise that we can make to our seniors.

But this Affordable Care Act can't make that promise to our seniors because it is cutting Medicare, and as my colleague from Michigan talked about, this IPAB board will also affect the kinds of services that our seniors receive.

So every American, especially our seniors, should be concerned about this law that is in place that will go into effect in 2013 and 2014.

So, we've heard from the hospitals and the physicians. They're not happy with this law. We've heard from the seniors. They're not happy with this law.

I hear from my businesses, my small businesses, those entities that we're trying to get this economy going, and they're concerned because they don't know how this law is going to affect them. They don't know whether or not they're going to have to pay the penalty or pay the tax. They're very concerned because of the uncertainty this creates in their businesses. So, they sit on cash and they don't invest and they don't hire. So my small businesses don't like this Affordable Care Act.

Now, just recently, and we've had a lot of debate about the tax on small medical devices that will occur to any small medical device producer in the country. Now, that's a niche sort of industry. It's one of the only sectors of the economy that has grown. It requires R&D. It requires innovation. It requires real creative production of small medical devices.

I have a well-known company right in my district, and on Monday of this week, they announced that they will cut 10 percent of their workforce directly related to two things. The first is that 2.3 percent excise tax on small medical device producers. Ten percent of that workforce will be done away with because of this Affordable Care Act. The other reason they are cutting their workforce is because of the tax and also because of the fact that, with this Affordable Care Act, hospitals and physicians are not buying new equipment because they, too, are uncertain as to what the Affordable Care Act is going to do to them and their business. So they're not buying new equipment for their hospitals and their offices.

So, now we've got seniors, hospitals, physicians, small medical device companies, businesses very concerned as to how this law is going to affect them.

The Court ruled that it's a tax, and that's why it's constitutional. There's 21 new taxes in this Affordable Care Act. It's going to affect our jobs and our economy. It's going to affect our small businesses. It's not the right direction for this country. Only the practical listening to people over and over again in the district puts that out very, very clearly.

So I think the right thing to do for this Nation—and this House, I'm so proud we have voted to repeal this law twice. We also voted in June to repeal the tax on small medical devices. That's the right thing to do.

The responsible thing to do is enact true health care reform that will really reduce the cost of health care, that will allow patients choice, that will allow them to cross State lines to buy their insurance. It will allow them to keep their insurance even if they lose their job. It will have tort reform in it and bring down the cost of health care. It will repeal the excise tax on small medical devices. It will keep the good pieces.

The two things I hear over and over again: preexisting conditions—and my colleague from Maryland mentioned it. Preexisting conditions, along with keeping your child on your plan until they're 26. Those two could certainly be incorporated in a new truly reformative health care law in this Nation.

So I thank my colleague from Michigan for all of his good work, for his dedication to the health care profession. I'm proud to be a member of the Docs Caucus because we are a group of people who have committed our life to health care. We are passionate about making sure that the United States of America maintains its high quality of health care and also keeps costs and accessibility to the highest standard for the people who live in this country.

Mr. BENISHEK. I thank my colleague from New York for joining us this evening. I appreciate her insight.

I just want to say a couple more things about this tax that she mentioned on medical device manufacturers.

You know, in my district as well, we have a couple of companies that make the drills for orthopedic surgeons where they put in the screws and that sort of thing. This tax is, I think it's a 2.3 percent tax, not on their profits, but on their gross. So even a small startup company that's trying to innovate, which we have in my district, and create a new device that will help people with care, even if they're losing money, they have to pay the tax on any gross receipts they have. That, to me, is like the most regressive part of that tax.

Besides that, it's forcing our medical innovators to move their companies overseas. I mean, you know, people aren't stupid. They realize that if they're going to be taxed here in this country even though they're losing money, they're going to move that manufacturing capability to Europe, and that's already been happening.

So this law is taking the medical innovators in this country—and everyone knows this country has been leading the way in the world in medical innovation for the last hundred years. It's forcing those people to go overseas to do business. That's not good for America. That's taking highly skilled people and asking them to go somewhere else to do business because we have a bad climate for that.

I want to talk just a little bit longer this evening about some real health care reform.

I mean, as I mentioned, the President's health care bill doesn't fix the problem with health care. The problem with health care is it's too expensive. This bill doesn't make it less expensive. It's becoming more expensive. When Medicare runs out of money, the way they're going to fix it is by decreasing payment to the hospitals and doctors that are providing you with care, so they're not going to want to take care of you either.

So let me just talk a little bit about a couple of, I don't know, commonsense ideas that we're talking about on this side of the aisle.

The first of those is health care insurance. I mean, the problem with insurance is it costs too much. So, what can we do to make it cost less? Well, I mean, I like to compare the difference between health insurance and car insurance.

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In car insurance, you can choose from a thousand different companies in this country from Florida to California to Wisconsin to Michigan and pick a company that suits your needs, and if you don't like that company, you switch to another company.

Right now, employers control most of the health insurance. We need to

have a plan that, number one, gives the individual control over their health insurance so that you can pick a health insurance policy that you like even if the employee next to you chooses a different policy. Why should it have to be the same? Why should you have to carry insurance for acupuncture if you never use acupuncture? Some States actually mandate the coverage of acupuncture. This is why insurance costs so much.

Your car insurance does not pay for an oil change. It does not pay for new tires. It does not pay for routine, small expenses that you can expect because that's not what insurance is for. Insurance is for a catastrophic event. If you want your car insurance to pay for oil changes and new tires, it's going to cost a lot of money because that's not the purpose of insurance. The purpose of insurance is to protect you from a catastrophic event.

That's why the Health Savings Account is an important component of free market health care reform because then you have—for example, say you're working for somebody; instead of paying your health insurance, your employer pays into a Health Savings Account, which is then your money to use for health care. And it comes to you tax free, so you're not paying any taxes on it. It would be the same as if your employer was paying for a health insurance policy for you.

So with that money, then, you could be paying for your routine health care out of that. Now, this is money in your account now, so you may want to choose how you spend that a little carefully because that money is in your Health Savings Account, that's money that belongs to you now, and you can use that any way you want for your health care. Or maybe if you don't even use it all, that would be there for you in your estate once you die for your children. So you want to be careful with that.

So when you're going to go get an MRI for your shoulder, you may not just go to the place that your doctor may recommend, you may shop around for an MRI. Because I know, for example, that at some places you can get an MRI for $2,500, at another place you can get an MRI for $600, the same MRI. Unless you actually kind of look around for it, you're not going to be able to find that deal. You're not going to even know about it because right now you don't even care about it perhaps because your insurance pays it and you have a copay that doesn't affect you. But if you're taking this money out of a Health Savings Account, you're going to be shopping more. That's the power of transparency in cost.

So, looking around to see where you can save money to keep money in your Health Savings Account, and then shopping for insurance that suits your needs, not the needs of the person next to you, but suits your needs so that you may choose an insurance company, like for your car insurance, that differs from our neighbor's but suits you just fine. You may have Chevrolet insurance or you may have Cadillac insurance, but it's your choice. Those are just two things that I think would really diminish the cost of medicine and not involve taking over everything by the government and actually decrease costs.

The other thing that nobody really talks about much in the cost of medicine is the cost of malpractice. Malpractice is something that doctors can be very uncomfortable with, but sometimes injuries do occur. Is it a good result for a patient who's been injured to have to go to court for 5 or 6 years and then have to pay fees for attorneys of 50 to 60 percent of the judgment after 5 or 6 years in court? Is that justice for an injured patient? Frankly, it's not something that doctors want to see.

Doctors want to see, if there is actually an injury, let's have it dealt with in a reasonable fashion. Let's have it adjudicated in an administrative law situation when there has been an injury. A panel of people can decide, yes, there has been actual injury, let's make a judgment, and let's give that patient a judgment, and let's get it done with within several months. That would be better. It would eliminate the entire cost of a trial, the attorney fees and all that, and physicians would like it. Patients would like it, I think, because it would give them speedier access to justice. I think that by doing that we would eliminate a lot of the extra costs that come into medicine.

Right now, if you come into the emergency room for something, a pain in your belly, you're going to get a CAT scan pretty much automatically because the doctor is afraid of being sued. And it doesn't cost him anything, it doesn't cost the patient anything, he's going to order a CAT scan, he's going to order the x-ray, he's going to order a lot of tests just to protect himself. These are some of the hidden costs of malpractice that people don't really think about. They just think about the cost of malpractice as simply the cost of the doctor's insurance, which can be expensive.

Right now, different States will have different abilities to attract physicians because they have different means of dealing with malpractice. But I think that for the patient, really, we need to have a better system where they get compensated faster and with less aggravation than the system we have now.

So, I think the main thing that we're talking about on this side, we talk about health care reform, is to talk about having a conversation with the American people. Maybe you don't agree with some of these ideas on how to make our health care system better and more efficient. Well, I can understand that. Let's have a conversation. Let's decide how we can do it better.

Let's try a pilot program in one State. Let's allow States to experiment in how to do things. Let's not write a bill of 2,700 pages in the middle of the night that nobody read and then put it on the American people and say it's going to be great, but we don't know what's in it because we haven't read it, and then go through the next 2½ years realizing that it's a mistake. I mean, there definitely needs to be room for improvement in our system, but can't we have this conversation in an open fashion? I think a lot of people even on the other side would realize that, hey, we made a mistake, but isn't it more important to admit that we made a mistake and try to move forward in a fashion that actually cuts cost? We see it's not cutting costs. It's been devastating to the American economy.

I've talked to small business owners across my district over the past 2 years and they say the same things again and again: There's regulations cost us money and our health care cost us money; it's going to make us not be able to hire more people.

So I think we've made some real mistakes here in the past, but now is the time to address them and move forward and try to make some commonsense decisions. Frankly, I'm happy to hear from people with ideas. I hear ideas from people all the time in the district that really make some sense and are certainly worth trying out.

So with that, I want to thank the members of the Physicians Caucus that were here this evening for our evening hour, and I yield back the balance of my time.

PROTECT AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, at this time I want to yield to my doctor friend from Texas, a former student of Texas A&M University, as myself, a guy who, as a junior in college when I was a senior in college, helped tutor me to make a 98 on the final exam of our accounting course. I yield such time as he may consume to my friend from Texas (Mr. FLORES).

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN HERO BRIAN BACHMANN AND ALL FIRST RESPONDERS ACROSS AMERICA

Mr. FLORES. I would like to thank my friend from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for allowing me a few minutes of his time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an American hero, Brian Bachmann, who served as Precinct 1 Constable of Brazos County, Texas, who was killed in the line of duty on August 13, 2012. Also, with yesterday being the 11th anniversary of 9/11, I also want to recognize first responders all across our country.

As I began to write my reflections for this conversation, which I originally delivered on August 18, the words that kept coming to mind to talk about were the words ''home'' and ''celebration.''

Before proceeding, I want to remind us of the heroes of Texas District 17. Since I was sworn into office on January 5, 2011, the 17th Congressional District of Texas has lost seven military personnel: Sergeant Scott Burgess; Staff Sergeant Bryan Burgess; Sergeant Edward F. Dixon, III; PFC Jesse Dietrich; Lieutenant Colonel David Cabrera; Captain Nathan Anderson; and Lieutenant Colonel Roy Tisdale.

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In addition, we have lost two law enforcement personnel during that time, Deputy Sheriff Taylor from Johnson County; and on August 13, we lost Constable Brian Bachmann. In each case, God called home one of his children and heaven has been celebrating since each of those arrivals.

Brian and I met in early 2010 when we were both running for our respective offices. Neither of us had ever run for public office before; and even though we came from different backgrounds, we formed a great friendship that endured the rigors of tough political campaigns.

Following our victories, we remained great friends. Each time we were together at various events, we always picked up our conversations where we had left off at the prior events. Most of the time we teased each other in these conversations.

The last time I talked to Brian was the Thursday before he was called home by God. We were both volunteers at the Brazos Valley Food Bank's Feast of Caring. We started out by teasing each other again. He began saying that I must not be a very good politician because I was already having to run again for office, to which I replied, Oh really, Bachmann? From what I've seen, you're the reason we need term limits.

Following that conversation and fellowship, we went back to cleaning tables and serving food. I never appreciated the fact that I wouldn't see him on this Earth again.

This is the Brian Bachmann that I knew, the friendly and always smiling guy who could care less about anyone's title. He was the person that loved our community and would do anything for it. He was the model public servant. However, and more importantly, he was a servant leader who ultimately modeled the words of Jesus in John 15:13 which state: ''Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down his life for his friends.''

I started this conversation by talking about home and celebration. At the end of each week, I jump on a plane and head home from Washington to Texas. That is where I'm happiest. That's where my wife, Gina is. It is close to our sons, our daughter-in-law and our granddaughter. In short, it is the community that I love. I always celebrate those homecomings, and my sense of excitement always builds as the airliner approaches Bryan/College Station.

The same thing happened on the afternoon of August 13. As Brian's situation changed here on Earth, others were preparing his new home. Brian knew this day would come. However, like the rest of us, he didn't know when, where, or how. But because of his relationship with Christ, he knew that he would someday be able to look forward to going to his next home for eternity. God knew all the details about Brian's homecoming, and the celebration started immediately on the afternoon when he left us.

The Apostle Paul reinforces this in 2 Corinthians 5:8, where he says: ''We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.'' This is the same knowledge that all Christians have. We know that when our human life ends, we will move to our eternal home with God.

At that moment, on August 13, Brian instantly heard the voices of those who had gone before him welcoming him home but, more importantly, the One who loved Brian enough to die for him held out his nail-pierced hands, embraced him and said, ''Howdy, Brian. Welcome to your new home.'' Those same hands and arms embrace and comfort Brian's family and all of us here now.

About 20 years ago, Max Lucado wrote a book titled ''The Applause of Heaven.'' I'm going to paraphrase the last few paragraphs of that book, as follows:

You'll be home soon. You may not have noticed it, but you're closer to home than ever before. Each moment is a step taken. Each breath is a page turned. Each day is a mile marker passed, a mountain climbed. You're closer to home than you've ever been.

Just as when my airline flight approaches Bryan/College Station each week, before you know it, your appointed arrival time will come. You'll descend the ramp and enter the city. You'll see the faces that are waiting for you. You'll hear your name spoken by those who love you. And in the back, behind the anxious crowd, the One who would rather die than live without you will remove His pierced hands from His heavenly robe and applaud your arrival.

We should be celebrating Brian's heavenly homecoming here on Earth as well. He is another soldier that fought the good fight and gone home where God has told him, ''Well done, good and faithful servant.''

Brian's parents, Brad and Carmen, his wife, Donna, and his children, Sam, Amanda, Colby and Caitlyn, can all take comfort in Brian's homecoming because we know that the cross of Jesus has won again.

Brian's sacrifice should remind us that we're all here to serve. It is my prayer that Brian's homecoming reminds us of all our human frailties and the shortness of our time here on this Earth. I'm hopeful that all of us will have the type of relationship with Christ that Brian did, so we will have similar homecomings with Him in heaven.

Let me close by asking everyone here to pray for and support the Bachmann family. Please pray for our country during these troubled times. Please pray for our military men and women who sacrifice to protect us abroad, and please pray for our first responders like Brian Bachmann who protect us here at home.

Brian, we celebrate your homecoming.

I again thank the gentleman for yielding.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan). The gentleman from Texas will be recognized.

Mr. GOHMERT. How much time is remaining, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 25 minutes remaining.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it's a difficult day, difficult week in the world. And I appreciate the tribute of my friend, BILL FLORES, for a great American hero.

I also want to pay tribute today to our U.S. Ambassador, Chris Stevens, and the three others who were killed in Libya in the service of their country. We grieve for their families. We grieve for their friends and all who may have come to harm and will come to harm; hopefully, no more, but our thoughts and prayers are with them.

It is important, during times when Americans are attacked on American soil, American buildings are attacked, which is what an American Embassy is, that the world understand that there will be consequences.

For those who sometimes want to ask, well, aren't you a Christian, don't you believe in turning the other cheek? The answer is, yes, individually. But there is a different charge for the government. There is a different charge for the people who have the responsibility of government and protecting the people and their rights.

The United States Government has the obligation to protect our citizens, to protect those who are serving this country, and as far as our military, to give them everything they need to win, whatever it takes, give them rules of engagement to allow them to win, whatever it takes, and then come home.

So it grieves me much, also, to see a time when people are dying, not for a wishy-washy government in Washington, D.C. that can't decide what its priorities are, but for the ideal for which America stands and for what it represents, for what it represents to people who yearn for freedom around the world.

And it does not help when an administration, in response to American attacks on American soil and American individuals, the administration ends up asking Americans to give up their First Amendment rights for which our servicemembers are fighting.

□ 1910

It doesn't help when a general calls an American and asks an American to

give up your First Amendment rights rather than proclaiming to the world, We're the United States military. You've attacked our country. You've attacked our brothers and sisters, and you will pay for that.

When we took an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, it means that when enemies who are foreign enemies attack on American soil—attack Americans because they're Americans—we have an obligation if they were not protected and they got hurt or killed. We have an obligation to those who would serve behind them—to those who are in this country—to protect them for the future.

That doesn't come when an administration or even a general turns around and says, Hey, I know I took an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, but we think, by your utilizing your First Amendment rights, it may be offending people around the world, so why don't you just subject your First Amendment rights to shari'a law. So it's okay to burn a Bible. That's okay. It's okay to burn a flag. Okay. That's all right. But just, for heaven's sake, don't say anything that might offend someone of the Islamic religion.

I, personally, don't think anybody should do that, but I certainly do think we should defend ourselves against radical Islamists who want to annihilate this country and destroy our way of life. We have an obligation. We took an oath to do that, not an oath to say: Let's give up the Constitution. I took an oath to defend and subject it to shari'a. No, no, no. Let's give that up so that maybe the people who are killing Americans and the people who are attacking our Embassies won't feel so offended, and maybe they won't kill people.

That is not the role of a general. It's not the role of a general to tell former military members that they should never speak out against a Commander in Chief when, as former members of the military, they're in a good place to be able to judge what's going on. It is and it should be a crime within the military to create problems for good order and discipline by publicly demeaning or condemning anyone in your chain of command. In my 4 years at Fort Benning, we knew that. President Carter drove me crazy with his ineptitude, with his inability to make decisions, to make the tough calls, and in his pathetic handling of the attack on our American Embassy in Tehran for which America still pays in the pathetic way it was handled.

For those of us who have been in the military, there is an obligation when you see the same mistakes being repeated. Since you know that those in uniform cannot step up and criticize the chain of command, we have an obligation to do that, and it is not helpful for anyone with stars on his shoulders to tell former military members, Oh, this is not appropriate for you to criticize my boss. How about the person with stars on his shoulders stepping up and doing the criticizing privately on behalf of the soldiers he is supposed to be commanding and protecting?

There are stories that are coming out. Time will tell. This one is from Fox News today. It's entitled ''U.S. Officials Suspect Strike on Benghazi Post 'Coordinated,' Timed for 9/11 Anniversary.''

U.S. officials are increasingly suspicious that the murder Tuesday of the U.S. Ambassador to Libya, Christopher Stevens, and three other American officials was not the result of a protest against an anti-Islam film, but instead was a coordinated terror strike timed for the 11th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

A senior administration official told Fox News they are exhaustively investigating every angle of the attack in Benghazi, and an earlier assault on the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, and there are early signs the Benghazi assault may have been planned. The official cautioned, though, that the administration has not jumped to any conclusions about what happened, saying it would be ''premature'' to do so.

The article goes on down, and it quotes different people. One is Pete Hoekstra, the former chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, who told Fox News that the attack appeared to have the markings of an al Qaeda or an al Qaeda-affiliated strike.

It quotes him as saying:

''We've been talking for years about the desire of Al Qaeda, radical jihadists to celebrate the anniversary of 9/11. All my background, all of the conversations that I've had over the last 18 hours lead many people to believe that this was just more than a mere coincidence.''

Hoekstra noted that the supposed protesters—purportedly angry over a film that ridiculed Islam's Prophet Muhammad—didn't attack in Tripoli. They attacked in Benghazi, ''where it so happens our Ambassador is.'' And they happened to be ''fully armed and fully equipped,'' he said.

Hoekstra noted that al Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri had recently released a video calling on militants to attack Americans in revenge for the killing of an operative in Pakistan. The message said his ''blood is calling on you, inciting you to fight and kill the crusaders.''

Hoekstra said the film may have been just a cover to carry out such an attack.

Two intelligence officials also said the attack looked ''coordinated.''

London-based think tank Quilliam reached the same conclusion, saying the Benghazi strike appeared to be a ''well-planned terrorist attack that would have occurred regardless of the demonstration (over the film).''

Also, the brother of Zawahiri was nearby during the separate protest at the American Embassy in Cairo on Tuesday.

There is so much going on, but one of the last things that people ought to do is say it's time to give up First Amendment rights. One of the goals that we know of for the Muslim Brotherhood in the United States within 10 years—it was one of their 10-year goals—is to subjugate the U.S. Constitution to shari'a law. There are great patriots who have called upon Americans to, perhaps, make it illegal to speak out and offend or to do anything that might offend worshipers of Islam without saying the same thing about any other religion whether it's Buddhist, Christian, whatever.

If they have their way and if we make the mistake of curtailing our constitutional rights to avoid offending people who want to annihilate us anyway and who want to have an international caliphate where they rule over us anyway—those they don't destroy—we make a major error. There are those who say there should be no criticism among Members of Congress and people in the government as to the handling by the Commander in Chief, but since we know people in uniform cannot speak out when they see mistakes by their commanders, we have an obligation to them to speak out.

But I do make this pledge to my friends across the aisle that, in any criticism, I will endeavor to ensure that I, personally, do not ever make the kind of wild-eyed allegations against this President that were leveled at President Bush by them.

□ 1920

How quickly some people forget.

Also, I understand this is a political season, it is a time when people are running for election and reelection. We all know that. But we have a friend. We have a prime minister of a friendly nation who has been mistreated by this administration, who deserves better treatment by this administration, who deserves to have this administration and this President keep their words that have been given to our friends in Israel, and it wouldn't hurt to meet with such a leader.

We know that in July that there were people who came to the White House for meetings in the White House, one of whom was a member of a known terrorist organization. That terrorist was allowed into the White House. Obviously, from the hearing we had with the Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, from a response she gave to me, she was ignorant of fact that we had a terrorist going into the White House for meetings. But by the next day when she testified, I believe, across in the Senate, she had become aware that we had a member of a terrorist organization meeting in the White House, and apparently this administration intends to continue meeting with members of known terrorist organizations, from what was said back in July.

And yet, the President—though he had time for meetings with known terrorists—will not carve out a little time to meet with the prime minister of our dear friend Israel at a time when Israel and many in the United States suspect that Iran may be 2 months away from having the nukes to carry out another Holocaust. We don't know the specific days there may be, but it would seem that you wouldn't necessarily need a rocket to have pinpoint accuracy if it's carrying a nuclear weapon. And now that we've seen trouble on the borders

of Israel, all around Israel almost, it doesn't seem it would be impossible to get one smuggled in. Rockets have been smuggled in by the hundreds that are routinely fired into Israel from the Gaza Strip. That's why there was a legitimate legal blockade to try to prevent those types of things from coming into the Gaza Strip, but they came in anyway, and they continue to come in.

We owe our friend, our ally, who this President has pressured, has cajoled, has ridiculed, has snubbed, and taunted by just saying, Trust us, we'll take care of Iran, don't worry about your national security, trust us. No nation should be told that they cannot invoke self-defense when their nation is at risk of being annihilated.

I remember learning in college that President Eisenhower had ordered that people from towns surrounding areas of these concentration camps where, when totaled together, was 6 million Jews that were killed, murdered, tortured, maimed, and he ordered that the people from the towns be required to come help clean up. The reasoning was so that no one could ever say the Holocaust never happened, because they cleaned up the atrocity. I remember thinking that was a little overboard for General Eisenhower. Really, you had to rub those peoples' noses in such horrible affliction? It hasn't been that long ago that I had these thoughts, and now we have people, like leaders of countries like Iran, that is about to have nuclear weapons if we don't intercede, who have said just that the Holocaust never happened, it was a hoax. Unbelievable.

It is unbelievable to me that in a matter of decades since World War II, since that horrible Holocaust, such an indictment against the human race, that people could do that to one race. It's just almost unfathomable that even in Europe, where those atrocities were committed and genocide was attempted, that we would see this growing anti-Semitism raising its ugly head again. And at the same time anti-Semitism is growing even in Europe, a civilized area, an educated area, it grows around the world, as we see people in the Middle East begin to have dreams of a new Ottoman Empire where every religion will be subjected to some of what we've seen happen in those countries where we helped bring about an Arab spring that's turned into a winter nightmare.

This is not a time to play petty personal games, to snub leaders of friends, of allies, even when you disagree with them, for heaven's sake. Take a little time from a fundraiser, take a little time that you don't go to the golf course, and meet with the leader of a country that sees hatred for its people, anti-Semitism, the racism, the bigotry growing around the world, that is scared for its own existence, that can't be sure we're going to be there with them because of the actions of this administration. Take a little time to meet with them. It is an inconvenient thing to have to be President when you are really best at running for office, but take some time and be President and meet with our friends.

The messages that are going out to those whom we seek to make allies for the future is not a good message. The people that have laid down their lives for the American ideal deserve the best we can give them. So on this day when we grieve and our flags are at half mast for the atrocity committed against our ambassador and others, our thoughts and prayers are with the families, and our thoughts and prayers are that our leadership will become what it should be to protect America.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today until 3:30 p.m. on account of a family obligation.

Mr. CICILLINE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for September 10 and 11 on account of district work.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 13, 2012, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

7583. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Reporting of Government — Furnished Property (DFARS Case 2012-D001) (RIN: 0750-AG83) received August 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7584. A letter from the Chief, Broadband Division, Wireless Communications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter: Amendment of Part 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Use of Microwave for Wireless Backhaul and Other Uses and to Provide Additional Flexibility to Broadcast Auxiliary Service and Operational Fixed Microwave Licensees; Petition for Rulemaking filed by Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition to Amend Part 101 of the Commission's Rules to Authorize 60 and 80 MHz Channels in Certain Bands for Broadband Communications [WT Docket No.: 10-153] [RM-11602] received August 29, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7585. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Endorsement of Nuclear Energy Institute Guidance for Developing Seismic Hazard Information Requested in the 50.54(F) Letter Dated March 12, 2012 received August 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7586. A letter from the Acting Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 3-12 informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7587. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-068, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7588. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-081, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7589. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-085, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7590. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-073, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7591. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-099, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7592. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-084, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7593. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-038, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7594. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-049, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7595. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-088, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7596. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-065, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7597. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-074, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7598. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-097, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7599. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-063, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7600. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-052, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7601. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-057, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7602. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-039, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7603. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-034, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7604. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-110, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7605. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-076, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7606. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-076, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7607. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-091, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7608. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-101, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7609. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-078, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7610. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-086, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7611. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-080, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7612. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-048, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7613. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-069, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7614. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-075, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7615. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-047, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7616. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-111, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7617. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-122, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7618. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 110210132-1275-02] (RIN: 0648-XC055) received August 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7619. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 110210132-1275-02] (RIN: 0648-XC055) received August 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7620. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shallow-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 111207737-2141-02] (RIN: 0648-XC056) received August 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7621. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Gulf of Mexico Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Shark Fishery [Docket No.: 100622276-0569-02] (RIN: 0648-XC080) received August 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7622. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; 2012 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quota Specifications [Docket No.: 120306154-2241-02] (RIN: 0648-XA920) received August 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7623. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Mississippi River, Mile Marker 230.0 to Mile Marker 237.0, in the Vicinity of Baton Rouge, LA [Docket Number: USCG-2012-0393] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7624. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Skagway Harbor, Skagway, Alaska for 4th of July Fireworks [Docket Number: USCG-2012-0512] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7625. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; San Francisco Bay Navy Fleetweek Parade of Ships and Blue Angels Demonstration [Docket Number: USCG-2012-0459] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7626. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Lafourche Bayou, LA [Docket Number: USCG-2011-0926] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received August 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7627. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0329; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-139-AD; Amendment 39-17127; AD 2012-14-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7628. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1251; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-017-AD; Amendment 39-17132; AD 2012-15-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7629. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Various Aircraft Equipped with Rotax Aircraft Engines 912 A Series Engine [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0765; Directorate Identifier 2012-CE-028-AD; Amendment 39-17130; AD 2012-15-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7630. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace LP (Type Certificate Previously Held by Israel Aircraft Industries, Ltd.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1164; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-057-AD; Amendment 39-17135; AD 2012-15-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7631. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace LP (Type Certificate Previously Held by Israel Aircraft Industries, Ltd.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0675; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-120-AD; Amendment 39-17131; AD 2012-13-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7632. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0356; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-067-AD; Amendment 39-17128; AD 2012-14-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64)

received August 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7633. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30834; Amdt. No. 3471] received August 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7634. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Surety Bond Guarantee Program — Quick Bond Application and Agreement (RIN: 3245-AG39) received August 14, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HALL: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 3479. A bill to reauthorize Federal natural hazards reduction programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112–666, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 778. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 117) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6365) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to replace the sequester established by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Rept. 112–667) Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 779. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6213) to limit further taxpayer exposure from the loan guarantee program established under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 112–668). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Natural Resources discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3479 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

REPORTED BILL SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 2 of rule XII, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

Mr. KING of New York: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 2356. A bill to enhance homeland security by improving efforts to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from an attack with a weapon of mass destruction, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112–665, Pt. 1); referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for a period ending not later than November 30, 2012, for consideration of such provision of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(p), rule X.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 2356. Referral to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Foreign Affairs, Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Science, Space, and Technology for a period ending not later than November 30, 2012.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 6377. A bill to require disclosures to consumers regarding the capability of software to monitor mobile device usage, to require the express consent of the consumer prior to monitoring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 6378. A bill to provide for the designation of, and the award of grant with respect to, air and health quality empowerment zones; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CLYBURN (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 6379. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6239 Savannah Highway in Ravenel, South Carolina, as the ''Representative Curtis B. Inabinett, Sr. Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 6380. A bill to temporarily relieve cost-sharing requirements for Army Corps of Engineers watershed mitigation projects and flood damage reduction projects for counties adversely impacted by Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. HECK):

H.R. 6381. A bill to establish a pilot program to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate and modify homes of disabled and low-income veterans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. BERMAN):

H.R. 6382. A bill to hold war crimes suspects and Nazi war criminals accountable by encouraging foreign governments to more efficiently prosecute, extradite, deport, or accept for deportation such war crimes suspects and Nazi war criminals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 6383. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2825 Oak Lawn Avenue in Dallas, Texas, as the ''William H. 'Bill' Nelson Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 6384. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase, expand, and extend the credit for hydrogen-related alternative fuel vehicle refueling property and to increase the investment credit for more efficient fuel cells; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself and Mr. LATOURETTE):

H.R. 6385. A bill to direct the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, and the United States Geological Survey, to lead a multiagency effort to slow the spread of Asian Carp in the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. HARRIS):

H.R. 6386. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require an individual who applies for a motor vehicle driver's license in a new State to indicate whether the new State is to serve as the individual's residence for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. CRITZ, and Mr. RIBBLE):

H.R. 6387. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue categorical exclusions from the requirement that an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement be prepared for highway safety improvement projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H. Con. Res. 137. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Azeri people, currently divided between Azerbaijan and Iran, have the right to self-determination and to their own sovereign country if they so choose; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H. Res. 780. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Olympic movement; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 6377.

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

Article 1 Section 8.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 6378.

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

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H.R. 6379.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 6380.

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

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 1, 3, 14, and 18), which

grants Congress the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States; to regulate interstate commerce; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 6381.

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

The Constitutional authority to enact this legislation can be found in:

General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 1)

Commerce Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 3)

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18)

Constitutional analysis is a rigorous discipline which goes far beyond the text of the Constitution, and requires knowledge of case law, history, and the tools of constitutional interpretation. While the scope of Congress' powers is an appropriate matter for House debate, the listing of specific textual authorities for routine Congressional legislation about which there is no legitimate constitutional concern is a diminishment of the majesty of our Founding Fathers' vision for our national legislature.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 6382.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 6383.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 6384.

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

Clause 1, Section 8, Article I

By Ms. McCOLLUM:

H.R. 6385.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the power ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers.''

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H.R. 6386.

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

Article I, Section 4.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 6387.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 as well as Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 190: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 733: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. MICA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 854: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 942: Mr. BILBRAY and Mr. KISSELL.

H.R. 949: Ms. McCOLLUM.

H.R. 964: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1048: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. SPEIER, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1063: Mr. STEARNS and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 1111: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 1259: Mr. TURNER of New York.

H.R. 1260: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1265: Mr. REED, Mr. BILBRAY, and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 1269: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1322: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. McGOVERN, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1370: Mr. McHENRY and Mr. HURT.

H.R. 1386: Ms. BASS of California, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1394: Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 1426: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 1489: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 1513: Mr. GALLEGLY and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1517: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1523: Mr. OLVER and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1529: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1546: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 1552: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1614: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 1648: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 1704: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1709: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1755: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1842: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 1903: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1960: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 1993: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 2016: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 2052: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2364: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2382: Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 2466: Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 2536: Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 2595: Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. DENT, and Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 2672: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 2722: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2758: Mr. LEVIN and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 2759: Mr. BERMAN and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2827: Mr. GRIMM and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 2854: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 2866: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 3102: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3178: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 3238: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 3307: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 3313: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 3337: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 3359: Ms. CHU and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3423: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 3442: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 3461: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 3481: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 3506: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 3648: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 3661: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California and Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 3679: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 4032: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 4084: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 4124: Mr. STEARNS.

H.R. 4128: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 4165: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 4209: Mr. HOLT, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. WOLF, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 4269: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 4309: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 4322: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 4350: Mr. SCHILLING and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4369: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 4373: Mr. CRITZ.

H.R. 5647: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. CRITZ.

H.R. 5746: Mr. BECERRA, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 5851: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 5864: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 5914: Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.

H.R. 5936: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 5969: Mr. POSEY, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. COLE, and Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 5970: Mr. POSEY, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. COLE, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 5991: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 6043: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. KISSELL, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 6046: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 6061: Mr. FARR and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 6087: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 6134: Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 6153: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 6163: Mr. STEARNS and Mr. McCAUL.

H.R. 6220: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 6245: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 6246: Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 6263: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 6291: Mr. WELCH, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, and Mr. RIVERA.

H.R. 6350: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. WEST.

H.R. 6361: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 6374: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.J. Res. 118: Mr. WALSH of Illinois.

H. Con. Res. 129: Mr. KISSELL.

H. Res. 295: Mr. MARKEY.

H. Res. 351: Mr. WELCH.

H. Res. 549: Mr. PASCRELL.

H. Res. 736: Mr. FARR.

H. Res. 760: Mr. SIRES, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H. Res. 774: Mr. KEATING, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of Calfornia, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 776: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. KING of New York.

CORRECTION

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 No. 122

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of salvation, sometimes we are tempted to doubt Your promises and to feel cynical about the chaos in our world. When these feelings come, help us to remember Your great deeds in our Nation's history, recalling the many victories You have already helped us win.

Continue to lead our lawmakers like a shepherd in green pastures and beside still waters. Nourish their spirit with the food of Your wisdom, soothing their doubts and calming their fears. Give them indefatigable courage for the living of these challenging days, using them as instruments to share hope and encouragement to our Nation and world.

Lord, we thank You today for the life and legacy of Ambassador Chris Stevens.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, the Senate will now consider the motion to proceed to S. 3547, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act. Seventy minutes will be equally divided this morning between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

We will begin consideration of the Veterans Jobs Corps bill today. It is unfortunate that we are having to go through another couple of filibusters on this bill, but that is what we have been through.

I mentioned yesterday on the floor that for the 6 years we have had a Democratic majority, there have been 380—this makes now 381—filibusters. During the time of Lyndon Johnson, 6 years, the same period of time, there was 1 filibuster—381 to 1. That is the kind of obstruction that has taken place in this body by the Republicans, and it is untoward by any stretch of the imagination. There has never been anything close to this.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Mr. REID. I was disturbed and saddened to learn late last night of the deaths of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other personnel in an attack on the U.S. consulate in Libya. I would be happy to talk by name about them, but their names have not been released at this stage. It doesn't take away from how important the jobs are of these Foreign Service officers.

I join President Obama in condemning these senseless acts of violence. My thoughts are with the families of those who were killed in this horrible attack. It is too often forgotten that American diplomats risk their lives on a daily basis.

I had the good fortune in my days on the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House to travel the world. I always make sure, wherever I go, to visit with the Foreign Service personnel. They are everyplace. There is no group of people—and I tell them this every time I have the opportunity to visit with them—who do more for our country in a positive sense than these Foreign Service officers. They work so hard, and most of the time their duty stations are very difficult.

For example, take this good man, Ambassador Stevens, who was just confirmed a few months ago. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. He taught English there. He was fluent in Arabic, French, and English. He served in the Foreign Service in Jerusalem, Cairo, and Saudi Arabia. He was the Staff Assistant of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. He had an education that was really unbelievably strong and powerful. He graduated from Berkeley. He had a law degree from Hastings, one of the premier law schools in the country. He had a master's degree from the National War College. What a loss to our country.

Our diplomatic corps is filled with admirable and dedicated public servants, and the four Americans who lost

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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their lives yesterday exemplify the courage that happens every day in diplomatic posts around the globe. They learn the language, and they live with the people wherever they go.

As I have indicated, I have traveled to many of the American Embassies abroad. I have always been so impressed and grateful for their leadership, and I communicate that to them every chance I get. We are so fortunate to have had Hillary Clinton leading the State Department for the last 3½ years.

I have indicated that Ambassador Stevens was not a political appointment; he was a Foreign Service officer. As I indicated, he served in the Peace Corps and spent his life giving his time and his talents to drum up democracy and American values around the world.

I support President Obama's directive to increase securing our diplomatic posts around the world and provide whatever resources are necessary to keep our personnel in Libya safe. I will continue to monitor the situation as we learn more about these terrible events.

JAMES BILLINGTON'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. REID. Madam President, Henry Ward Beecher, the famous abolitionist, once said, ''A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life.'' I agree. Our Founding Fathers also agreed, and that is why we have the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress was initially the library of Thomas Jefferson. That is what started the Library of Congress. It was established in 1800. It was this country's first Federal cultural institution. It is the largest library in the world. There are 35 million books and 838 miles of bookshelves. The numbers are staggering. Almost 10,000 new items are added every day.

For 25 years the Librarian of Congress has been Dr. James Billington. He has been a faithful and effective leader. I first got to know Dr. Billington in 1986 when I came to the Senate. There was a little squabble between a couple of the more senior Senators, which was a wonderful opportunity for me because one of the very senior Senators thought that maybe he deserved more than being the chair of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch. I grabbed that. I was happy to do that. I loved that experience. I learned a lot about what goes on here and how we pay for things. At that time it was an effort to really hurt the Library of Congress, so I had that opportunity to stand for the Library of Congress. Every time we had a vote, we won and they were not able to damage the Library of Congress.

I got to know Dr. Billington. I had the good fortune to travel once with him to Russia. Dr. Billington, before coming to the Library of Congress, was one of the foremost scholars on the former Soviet Union. He knew everything about that land. He still writes about the new Russia. He is a very stalwart academic. When he took over the Library of Congress in 1987, computers were a scarcity, but he had a vision of what the future should be, and he thought it would be important to digitize the Library's collections and make them available on the Internet. There was a little pushback at first, but, of course, now that is history. That is what happened.

I have such admiration for him as a person. He is a good person not only from an academic standing but as an administrator. I am glad they were unable to slash the Library's budget as they tried, and as a result, people came to a better understanding of what the Library of Congress was all about. I am glad I was able to play a part in that. He has always ensured that the Library of Congress would remain an unmatched resource for knowledge and enlightenment. So it is with pleasure that I congratulate my friend Dr. Billington on 25 years—a quarter of a century—of dedicated service at the Library of Congress.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. REID. Very quickly, Madam President, I was very disappointed to hear Speaker BOEHNER say yesterday that he was giving up on reaching a bipartisan agreement to avoid huge cuts to both domestic and defense programs. I don't feel that way. I can assure everyone within the sound of my voice that I have not given up on finding a reasonable and balanced approach to reducing our debt and avoiding these difficult cuts. Democrats agree that across-the-board cuts are not the best way to solve the problems. Sequestration is a bitter pill, but we did that on purpose. That was no accident. That is why there was overwhelming support for the budget deficit reduction act to have sequestration. The sequestration was engineered to be hard to take, so it forced us to compromise. It was designed to be tough enough to force the two sides to reach a balanced deal. That is why there was widespread bipartisan support for this.

I hope Speaker BOEHNER will reconsider. I believe it is much too early to give up. I urge my Republican colleagues not to give up on themselves because I am not going to give up on them. It is time for them to stop rooting for the economy to fail and root for Congress to succeed and reach common ground. Remember, the markets are watching our every move, with Moody's saying yesterday that they were thinking of downgrading our debt standing credit rating. This is not the right time to say there is no hope in getting things done. I disagree. I say that the glass is half full, not half empty.

The Speaker's statement came an hour after that reminder from Moody's came forward. We are willing to work. I say that to my friend JOHN BOEHNER and to everyone else. We are willing to negotiate, we are willing to cooperate, we are willing to consider the difficult cuts to programs we hold dear, and I think the Republicans should do the same. So far they have refused. Due to the orders of their leader Grover Norquist, they have refused to raise even a penny of new revenue. They have refused to ask millionaires to contribute their fair share to help reduce the debt and the deficit. And Democrats won't agree to a one-sided solution that lets the superwealthy off the hook while forcing the middle class and those in greatest need to bear all the hardship. I repeat, we are willing to consider difficult cuts to programs we believe are extremely important.

The sequestration is not a perfect legislative tool, but rarely do we do anything legislatively that is perfect. That is the way it has been for generations. But at least it has the benefit of being a balanced approach, and it has the power of law.

Republicans, including Vice Presidential candidate PAUL RYAN, would do well to remember that they voted for the sequestration.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, we learned yesterday, and are receiving reports this morning, of the attacks against the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya. In Benghazi, our Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the service of our Nation. Our thoughts and sympathies today are with the families of these brave Americans.

These attacks remind us of the sacrifices made on a daily basis by foreign service officers, diplomatic security personnel, and our marine security guards. I join my colleagues in strongly condemning the murder of these innocent Americans, and I support employing every available tool at our disposal to ensure the safety of Americans overseas and to hunt down those responsible for these attacks.

Yesterday we commemorated the anniversary of the attacks of September 11, and today we are reminded that brave Americans serve us every day at the risk of their own lives. We honor the Americans we lost in Libya and we will stand united in our response.

Among the things we can agree on in Washington is that the attacks on the United States and its representatives will be met with resolve and that America's presence and defense of our national interests across the globe will not be deterred by the acts of violent extremists.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

VETERANS JOBS CORPS ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3457, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 476, S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans job corps, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the next 70 minutes will be evenly divided and controlled between the two leaders, with Republicans controlling the first half.

The Senator from Tennessee.

MAKING TOUGH CHOICES

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, this is a great Nation.

I was interested to hear the comments of our two leaders today, and I am saddened, as are all of us here, regarding the news of Ambassador Stevens and three other hard-working public servants who represent us. We are a great Nation. This is a great Nation. People such as those individuals demonstrate the exceptionalism of Americans all around the world.

That is why it saddens me to come to the floor today, on the eve of hearing about whether the Federal Reserve, which will decide tomorrow, is going to print more money. Our markets are volatile each day, trying to figure out and read the minds of what our central bankers are going to do. Two days ago I spoke with one of our leading administration officials—someone whom I respect greatly—who had just attended a meeting in the Asian area where Christine Legarde was speaking to a small group of folks. She is the head of the International Monetary Fund. She stated that the real difference in how the world is going to evolve over the next short term and how the economies of the world are going to react is based upon whether people in Europe and people in the United States of America are going to rise up and deal with the problems they have internally.

I look at what is happening on both sides of the Atlantic, with central bankers printing money to buy debt of great nations—nations that have evolved, that are sophisticated, that are democracies. They pave the way for other cultures to evolve and develop economically themselves. Yet we wake up in a world where because politicians in Europe and politicians here in the United States of America have not risen to deal with the fiscal issues within their own countries, the central bankers are left in a situation where they are printing money and buying debt in order to move a crisis further away from the day we now live in.

I know the majority leader talked about negotiations that are taking place regarding sequester and I know everybody in this body has been involved in some meeting of some kind to deal with the fiscal issues our Nation faces. I realize that over the next 60 days there is likely nothing that we as a body are going to do. I understand that. I don't think anyone in America expects that is going to happen over the next week and a half. We will figure out a way to move out of here and hopefully not do any damage to our country.

What I hope will happen is when we come back after the election, during a lameduck session or shortly thereafter, all of us will get serious about dealing with our Nation's fiscal issues. The majority leader spoke to the economy. I want our economy to do well. I want citizens in Tennessee and New York and all across our country to do well. Yet what we have done over the course of the last year and a half or so is passed silly little bills that have nothing whatsoever to do with sustaining a long-term economy, and we find ourselves again waking up on the eve of finding out whether the Chairman of our Federal Reserve is going to print more money to buy our debt to make it less painful for us and cause us to be in a position where we put off making the tough decisions. I hope the Federal Reserve Chairman tomorrow is going to show the humility he needs to show, that monetary policy has its limits, and it is up to us now to do our job.

So I am saddened today about the news of some wonderful public servants having lost their lives. I wake up every day with a tremendous sense of privilege to serve in this body and to represent people such as those who died, who are living in tough circumstances around the world, to make sure that all of us here are safe. I hope what will happen in this body is that Republicans and Democrats alike will honor the sacrifices, as we honored them yesterday and we today solemnly think about, that people make around this world on our behalf to keep us free and safe, and that we as a body, Republicans and Democrats, are going to rise and do the things we need to do to put in place a real fiscal reform package that will not rely upon the sugar of the Federal Reserve, but that we will do the things we need to do to create a sustained economy.

I believe—and I think most people in this body know it when they think about it—we are one fiscal reform package away from being able to focus on being a great Nation—we are a great Nation—but to be able to focus on that. When we look at where we are as a country, with the tremendous energy resources that 2 years ago we didn't even realize we had in this continent; when we look at the technology breakthroughs that are happening in this great country; when we look at the pharmaceutical breakthroughs that are happening and saving lives around the world, we are one reform package away from putting this problem in our rearview mirror and focusing on the greatness of this Nation.

So, again, I know we are not going to do anything over the next week and a half and we are not going to do anything over the next 60 days. But I hope Senators from all around this country and House Members from all around this country will come back after this election and have the courage that has been demonstrated so often by so many Americans to make the tough choices that are necessary to put our fiscal woes behind us, to cause this economy to grow, to allow the standard of living of Americans to rise and, candidly, to help lift hundreds of millions of people around this world out of poverty. That is what people are depending on. It is an embarrassment to find ourselves in this position where we are being diminished around the world, because people are looking at us—the great example to the world of free enterprise and limited government and democracy—and knowing that we don't have that courage today.

So I am hopeful we are going to come back and deal with these issues, we are going to do it in a bipartisan way, and then as a Nation we can continue to focus on our greatness and we can help not only uplift our own citizens through economic growth but help continue to be a beacon to the world.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I have been coming to the Senate floor on a daily basis to talk about the importance of the wind production tax credit, and I intend to do so today. But before I bring up that important topic I want to speak to a situation, an incident, that is on everybody's mind; that is, what happened in Libya earlier today.

I think all of us in the Senate adhere, or should adhere, to the concept that politics should cease at the water's edge. I hope in this terrible tragedy that philosophy will hold fast. I, along with all Coloradans, absolutely condemn the murders—and that is what they were—of Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. State Department personnel today in Libya.

I am a member of the Senate Committees on Armed Services and Intelligence, and I know the men and

women of our diplomatic corps do absolutely vital work under difficult conditions every single day. Ambassador Stevens was a dedicated public servant who was working in Libya to advance freedom and democracy, and we will continue undeterred in our pursuit of those goals.

We salute the service and sacrifice of all those who were taken from us today, and their families are in our thoughts and prayers.

WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

Madam President, as I mentioned when I first rose, I am here again on the floor of the Senate to urge all of us to take action on an issue that already has broad bipartisan support; that is, the renewal of the production tax credit for wind energy.

I was back in my home State of Colorado for the August work period, as I know the Presiding Officer and all my colleagues were, and I saw firsthand the very positive effects wind energy has had on my State of Colorado. I also saw the sobering effects of congressional inaction, which only strengthened my resolve to have extended the production tax credit.

I want to share some specific insights and developments in Colorado and then move to the State I am going to discuss today in a little bit.

Xcel Energy operates in my home State. It has a wide area in the upper Midwest as well, but it announced it had set a record for the amount of electricity generated from wind resources. At one point Xcel's Colorado customers got over half—to be precise, 57 percent—of their electricity generated from wind power. This is a huge success, and it highlights in so many ways the potential that wind energy has to fill a larger and larger portion of our energy portfolio as this industry fully matures.

Sadly, though, I also saw the negative effects of our failure to renew the wind PTC. Vestas Wind systems, which the Presiding Officer is familiar with, does business in Colorado. It announced layoffs last month affecting 2,300 workers worldwide who are manufacturing the turbines themselves, including about 100 workers at Vestas' facilities in Pueblo and Brighton, CO.

This was both predictable and predicted, and it is time for us to act to protect American workers in the wind energy industry. Each day we fail to act to extend the production tax credit, more American jobs are put at risk, and we further cede more of our clean energy leadership to foreign competition. Look no further than Colorado for both the promise of wind energy but also the peril of congressional inaction.

Of course, these effects are not limited to my State. I am biased. I think I represent the best State in the Nation, but every day I come to the floor and I highlight a different State and the positive impacts wind energy has had there. Literally every State in the Nation has a stake in this crucial wind industry space. Today, therefore, I would like to talk about the great State of North Carolina where wind energy has literally boomed in recent years.

North Carolina—as have a lot of States—has seen a tremendous growth in its wind manufacturing sector. What are the numbers? Well, as of 2012, there are at least 17 wind manufacturing facilities in North Carolina that provide jobs to their local communities, and at least one more facility is scheduled to come online soon. The facilities produce everything from steel to lubricants and bearings.

We can see all the green circles which designate where these facilities are all across the great State of North Carolina. Let me focus on one manufacturer in North Carolina. It is PPG Industries. PPG is a major supplier of fiberglass to the wind industry, and there are hundreds of jobs linked to its activities. Their fiberglass facilities are in Shelby and Lexington, which are outside of Charlotte and Greensboro, respectively. Their growing role has been good for not only the company but for North Carolina. In 2010 PPG expanded its presence and brought online an additional furnace and created another 1,800 jobs. In sum, across North Carolina there are over 2,000 good-paying jobs, and those jobs then create a ripple effect.

If we want to look more broadly at North Carolina, they are manufacturing but they also have very significant wind energy potential in the State itself. Offshore wind resources are abundant. The American Wind Energy Association estimates that wind energy could provide enough electricity to power some 800,000 homes. That is not all: Onshore wind resources could also provide a substantial amount of power for the State.

If we look at these numbers, this is an important industry in North Carolina. It certainly has made a difference. But if we do not extend the wind production tax credit, this strong growth in the manufacturing sector plus the potential to harvest the wind in North Carolina is at risk and the years of strong progress we have seen here toward a clean energy future in North Carolina could be literally dashed if the wind production tax credit expires at the end of the year.

Here is the bad news. The wind industry in North Carolina, because they are anticipating the expiration of PTC, is beginning to downsize and shelve expansion plans, predictably. This story is being repeated potentially all over the country. It is heartbreaking. I remain hopeful, however. I am dedicated to extending the PTC. I know the Presiding Officer has been very helpful and very supportive and understands its importance.

A little bit of good news. The Senate Finance Committee passed a bipartisan tax extenders package as we left for our August State work period and it did include an extension of PTC. I want to stress an important point about that effort: The package was bipartisan. I want to see the Senate take up the Finance Committee's legislation immediately and pass it immediately.

In a few hours the House is going to see an interesting discussion. The Presiding Officer served in the House. So did I. They are an equal partner of ours in the Senate. Over a dozen Members in the House are going to take the floor today and express their strong support for American jobs and the extension of the PTC. I am pleased these members of the House Sustainable Energy and Environmental Coalition will be adding their voices to what has become a bipartisan and now bicameral push to extend the PTC.

As I begin to close, let me also talk about the support that is out there in the country. It is a broad array of groups that have stood and said we think the PTC ought to be extended. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Governors Association, the Governors' Wind Energy Coalition, the American Farm Bureau Federation and many major national newspapers have all weighed in saying this is important to our country's future.

Members on both sides of the aisle, as I have mentioned, have said the PTC should be extended because they know and they have seen the positive effects of the PTC on their communities and across the country. They also know that wind energy—and renewable energy more generally—is the future. It is the wave of the future. There is no question. All you have to do is look at the rest of the world—look at China, look at Spain, look at Denmark, look at every developed country and the developing countries in Asia and India. They are all investing in clean energy. This is not something they are doing just to feel good. It is where economic growth will occur.

In sum, extending the PTC is a no-brainer. It is common sense. We ought to be doing the job we were sent here to do. We ought to be extending the PTC as soon as possible. PTC equals jobs. We ought to pass it as soon as possible. I am going to continue coming to the floor every day until we finish the job. I will not stop until we vote to protect American jobs. Failure to act has already hurt this vital industry. Continued inaction will result in the loss of thousands of American jobs which then has a ripple effect on the rest of the Nation's economy.

Colleagues, stand with me, stand with the Presiding Officer, stand with American workers. Let's extend the production tax credit now, as soon as possible.

I thank the Chair for her support and her interest.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for 10 minutes to address the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, last night when I went to sleep I was going over in my mind the speech I wanted to give here today—which is an important day in the history of the American space program. It is the day that President Kennedy challenged us to go to the Moon, to land safely on the Moon and to return safely as well.

When I woke up this morning I woke up to terrible news, to learn that our Ambassador in Libya had been killed by a mob. We've lost Ambassador Chris Stevens. We lost three others at the American Embassy in Libya. It is a terrible tragedy.

At the same time yesterday our Embassy in Cairo was stormed. Thanks to the vigilance of its leadership and our wonderful Marine Corps defending the Embassy, we lost no one in Cairo.

Madam President, I first want to extend to all of the families who lost someone in Libya overnight my extreme and definite condolences and sympathy. I am a little bit at a loss for words because these tragedies that happen to our men and women who serve at our Embassies happen all too frequently and then we say: A grateful nation never forgets; and then we go on to bash our Federal employees and our State Department people, saying: Oh, they have these cushy jobs in exotic places and they must be out eating brie somewhere.

We lost, at the Nairobi bombing, Consul General Bartley, head of our consulate service, who was serving there, one of the highest serving African Americans in our Foreign Service. His son interned there that summer, wanted to be like his dad. They died there. They died there. But he was at his duty station.

It has been almost 15 years. These men and women were serving the United States of America. They were at their duty station. They were trying to help Libya to rise up now to be able to create a government and be able to create opportunity for its own people, and they gave their lives. Ambassador Chris Stevens had already served two tours in Libya but wanted to go back again at this new moment in history, to stand up, to help Libya stand up a true government that was free and would give their people a chance at democracy and participating in a new Middle East.

And then there was Sean Smith, who was a 10-year veteran of the Foreign Service. He was an information management officer. He had served in Iraq. He is a father of two children, a devoted husband. We know what happened to them.

So we must continue our strong partnership with Libya after the fall of Qadaffi. But I call upon the new leadership: Call for calm, call for tolerance. If you are angry, there are ways to do protests and so on. You don't have to go around killing the American Ambassador when our Air Force flew over Libya and our President and our Congress worked to support this new government coming up.

And then there is Cairo. Because of anger over a video—I do not know about this video. I don't know its content but I do know the outcome—that our Embassy in Cairo was stormed. They tore down our American flag. They replaced it with another flag. But it is the flag of the United States of America and our flag is in Egypt. Our flag is in Egypt because we are great allies to the Egyptian Government and great supporters of the Egyptian people as they come through the Arab spring—again, trying to create a new day and a new way.

I say to Ambassador Patterson and the entire staff, again: Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I was in Cairo. I know what they do every day. I know how, during the Arab spring many of them were locked in the Embassy, trying to keep our government functioning while their own families had to be evacuated. Some did not see their families for 3 weeks because they were inside, they couldn't leave, and we had the most massive evacuation of civilian employees in our history since, really, the beginning of some other armed conflicts.

So I say to those embassy staff, both our wonderful Ambassador, Anne Patterson, but to a lot of the little people who work at the Embassy, the people who keep the commercial commerce office open, the people who are doing the wonderful work with NGOs to show them how to build a free and new kind of society, and also to the foreign nationals who work in our Embassy—we think about you.

I say to the leadership in both countries again: Call for calm, call for tolerance. But I say to my colleagues here, we have to call for calm and tolerance right in this institution. We have to support our men and women in the State Department, our men and women in the military. All who serve overseas are representatives of the United States of America. Whether you are the Peace Corps or the Marine Corps; whether you are the Foreign Service or the commercial service or whatever—you are in the service of the United States of America, promoting our values, trying to help promote democracy and also trying to have economic and strategic cooperation.

I thank our Foreign Service staff. Many of them live in Maryland but that is not the point. They live in the United States of America. So I say to all, when you point your finger and say we don't need a government—I think we do need a government. And when we talk about standing up for our military now, in these tough budget times, absolutely we should. But remember there are others overseas who also carry our flag in very dangerous areas.

Let's start respecting the people who work for our government. Let's make sure they have the right resources to do their job and then let our President, our talented Secretary of State, help work with the other world leaders to do something to bring about stability.

I feel very strongly about this. I guess what you are hearing from Senator MIKULSKI is grief for what has happened in Libya, worry about what has happened in Cairo, tension about what continues to happen in the Middle East, and then frustration about what goes on here. When all is said and done—more gets said than gets done and what is said is often not very good.

The world is watching us here. We are supposed to be the greatest democracy in the world. Not only are we supposed to be, I believe that we are. But democracy begins with us. Democracy is not only something written on a piece of paper which are our founding documents but we have to live what is in those founding documents. We have to, first of all, start with civility, start with respect, start with conversations among ourselves about how we could truly work together to help our country and to help our country help the world.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SPACE FLIGHT SPEECH

This is what it was all about 50 years ago when a young President went to Rice University. The Russians were pounding their chests. They put something up in the air called Sputnik. President Eisenhower had responded. We were going to do something called the National Defense Act. We were promoting math and science to catch up with the world. Does it sound familiar? Then, also, though, our President wanted to do more and he went to Rice University. During that speech he rallied the Nation on why, as part of his vision of the New Frontier, why we should travel into space. That historic day he said:

> We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade, and do other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and our skills.

That is how in a robust way we took a nascent space program and transformed it into a space superpower. It literally took us to the frontier of space and took us to a new frontier.

For those 50 years, America continued to lead the way in space and to keep space a peaceful area. Not to militarize space, not to colonize it for a single country, but to explore and along the way in exploring the universe to get to invent science and technology that would help transform our lives here.

America continues to lead the way in space. As an appropriator for the space program I am so proud of what we continue to do—what we continue to do in the area of space exploration, space and space science.

Look at where we are now. We are right up there in the space station. We have completed its development. We are going to do new research that has never been done before and we are part of our wonderful, gallant astronaut

program. At the same time, we have invented new technologies to explore the universe. The work for the Hubble Telescope is located in Maryland both at Goddard and the Space Telescope Science Institute.

Most recently, we landed Curiosity on Mars, a robot the size of a Mini Cooper, that will tell us so much about our nearest neighbor. As President Kennedy might have said, I sent Curiosity to Mars not because it is easy but because it is hard and we are very curious.

Over the summer, we lost two of our great people—two of our great astronauts. We lost Dr. Sally Ride, the first woman to go into space, whom we so admired, and then we lost astronaut Neil Armstrong, who on July 20, 1969, took that giant step for mankind.

Tomorrow at the National Cathedral we will honor Astronaut Neil Armstrong, and later this year at the National Space Museum we will honor Dr. Sally Ride. We not only want to respect our astronauts of the past, we want to respect the astronauts of today and our astronauts of tomorrow. We want to respect all those wonderful young men and women who want to study space and aeronautics, who want to explore the new frontiers of today and will come up with new ideas that will lead to new jobs tomorrow.

We keep asking NASA to do the hard jobs, such as explore the universe, protect the planet, make airplanes safer and more reliable, look beyond the reach of Earth, develop those new technologies, and search for extraterrestrial life out there. Maybe it is out there, maybe it isn't—study Earth as if it were a distant planet. Maybe there is intelligent life on Earth. Let's look for that, and let's look for it right here. We need to continue to broaden our reach, to go beyond low-Earth orbit and also continue our research.

This year, there was a unique, bold partnership when a private company, SpaceX, sent cargo to dock at the International Space Station. No private company and few nations have accomplished that. This year, SpaceX will be joined by another private company, Orbital Science, which will launch from the east coast Spaceport Wallops. They are located in Virginia. It is a Maryland-Virginia cooperation. How exciting.

Our future in space will be built on innovation and discovery, whether it is the commercial rocket industry, the James Webb Space Telescope that will take us well beyond the work of the Hubble, new technologies, including fixing satellites or, again, that mission to planet Earth. New technologies don't just happen; they come from American ingenuity, but they are built through investments. They made America great and they made the missions of the United States worth imitating.

In the last couple weeks the Presiding Officer talked about an exceptional America. America is exceptional because of the daring and the do of people such as our astronauts, because of talented people who think and study and come up with new ideas and because their government backed them.

I wish to conclude by saying I am proud of what President Kennedy announced. Right here in this body two people teamed up. Actually, it was one person in this body and the other was a Vice President. It was an odd couple. Their names were Vice President Lyndon Johnson and Margaret Chase Smith. Margaret Chase Smith was once the longest serving woman in Congress. I now hold that record. Margaret Chase Smith, from Maine, was a devotee of the space program. President Kennedy set the goal. He gave it to Lyndon, his Vice President, to make the goal into a reality. The Vice President turned to Congress, and Margaret Chase Smith helped carry the weight of the Congress to put in the right policies and the right funding. Isn't that a wonderful story? It is a wonderful story we need to take with us, that when we work together with our President and both parties work across the aisle, that is the new frontier which takes and keeps America an exceptional Nation.

God bless our President Kennedy, all the astronauts who risked their lives, and everyone who worked to create these new frontiers.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, I rise today to express my strong support for the Veterans Jobs Corps Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the bill. I would like to thank Senator NELSON for introducing the bill, and I would like to thank Senator MURRAY, chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, for bringing this bill to the Senate and for all she has done for our Nation's veterans.

Veterans have done so much for our country, serving courageously in the military, and they have been tested so profoundly and so many times over the last decade. These men and women have done everything for us. We owe them. That means they deserve the best health care and other benefits they have earned from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

And that means a home. Last weekend I was back in Minnesota for Habitat for Humanity, making critical home repairs for a Minnesota Guard veteran, SGT Brian Neill, and his family. Brian is a 23-year veteran of the National Guard, is part of the Minnesota National Guard unit, the legendary Red Bulls, who had their deployment in Iraq extended so that it was one of the longest, if not the longest, deployment in U.S. history.

While Brian was in Iraq, his son was hit by a drunk driver while returning home from his junior ROTC training. He sustained a severe brain injury and is severely disabled.

In Iraq, Brian, who mentored younger soldiers, saved the life of one of those solders. Brian, being a 23-year vet, mentored these young kids. They were in a convoy, and he saw one of them get out and collapse. He recognized the heatstroke and saved his life.

Sergeant Neill himself returned from Iraq suffering from very serious physical and psychological wounds that leave his wife Jane as a caregiver for both Brian and their son. I have to tell you, they are the most wonderful people. It was an amazing experience to help them with home repairs to make sure they will have the home that meets their needs.

But when I talk to veterans in Minnesota these days, the thing I hear most about is jobs, about employment. Jobs mean money, of course, but it means much more. It means a new mission. Without a job, you really cannot reintegrate into your community and start a new phase of your life.

Veterans unemployment in Minnesota, as I am sure it is in the Presiding Officer's State of New York, is way too high. My message to employers in Minnesota is simple: These are the people you want to hire. They have skills. They have discipline. We all have a role to play in making sure veterans have jobs—employers in the private sector, State government, colleges and universities, municipalities, and also the Federal Government.

This is how we do it in Minnesota. Let me give an example. We had several thousand Red Bulls deployed to Kuwait. The Minnesota National Guard recognized that a large number of them were not going to have jobs when they came back, so the Guard and Minnesota's outstanding Department of Employment and Economic Development went upstream, as they say, to Kuwait to get ahead of the problem. They brought corporate leaders from Minnesota, businesses such as Target and Best Buy, and they also brought folks from MNSCU, which is the Minnesota State Colleges and University System, to Kuwait to provide training for the Guard members on entering or reentering the workforce. They were able to share valuable information with the Red Bulls on writing resumes, getting ready for an interview, and doing it well.

One of the problems is that very often soldiers coming back from Afghanistan, coming back from Iraq, from Kuwait, very often in a job interview will say: We did that, we did this, we did that. That is how you think in the military. Employers want to know what you yourself individually did. So it was simple. The employment guys from Target said: Say ''I''—you know, little tips like that. And it has been very helpful.

So we all have a role to play. At the Federal level, last year we passed the VOW to Hire Heroes Act that expanded and created new tax credits for businesses that hire veterans. I have been spreading the word in Minnesota—I know the Presiding Officer has been spreading the word in New York—so our businesses know that for every unemployed veteran they hire, they can get a tax credit for up to $9,600. That is $9,600 for hiring a veteran who has a service-related disability and then ratchets down a little bit. But this is a good incentive for businesses to be hiring our veterans.

The legislation we are considering today, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act, is the next step that we can and should take at the Federal level. The bill creates a Veterans Job Corps through the Department of Veterans Affairs, in cooperation with other departments, where thousands of veterans will be able to work on conservation and resource management in our Nation's public lands. Under this bill, veterans will have the opportunity to restore and protect parks, forests, and other public lands, whether they be national, State or tribal. Veterans will be hired to maintain the infrastructure and facilities on these public lands. It will also provide funding for veterans to become firefighters and law enforcement officers. It will also provide licensing and certification for certain skills veterans had when they were deployed—emergency medical, nursing assistants, and also drivers. Many men and women drive in these theaters, and to ease their getting certification, this bill does that as well so they can work in our Nation's parks and these national lands that are so treasured.

This is really based on the Civilian Conservation Corps, the CCC from the New Deal, which was created through a combination of actions by Franklin Roosevelt and legislation, of course, by Congress. It was very successful. It was the most popular program of the New Deal. In fact, at that time veterans were specifically included among those who could be enrolled in the CCC. As I said, the CCC was one of the most successful programs to help us get through the Depression.

My wife Franni's uncle James, who died not long ago at the age of 96, worked for the post office, the Postal Service, and served with the U.S. Army postal service in England, France, and Germany during World War II—a ''greatest generation'' guy. But before that, during the Depression, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. He was part of the crew that built the road through Evans Notch, a beautiful, mountainous area at the border of Maine and New Hampshire. My wife is from Maine. This was one of James' proudest achievements in life. If you read his obituary, it was one of the most prominent parts, along with his service during World War II.

That is the kind of thing the Veterans Job Corps can be. We have to do this work on our public lands, our parks, our forests. Our public lands need to be maintained and preserved and improved. Why not put our veterans to work doing it? They have the skills, they have the experience, and they have the discipline. For instance, if you spent a lot of time on duty outside and you work in teams, which is obviously true of a huge number of those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, you are going to be very well suited for this work. If you built roads in Iraq or Afghanistan, you are well prepared to maintain or manage resources in Minnesota's beautiful parks, forests, trails, and other public lands—under a little less pressure, by the way.

Minnesota has over 227,000 acres of land in 73 State and national park and recreation areas. That does not count our innumerable public lands under more local jurisdiction. Those are some of the most beautiful places in the country—the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Voyageurs National Park, Superior and Chippewa National Forests, or the trail along the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, just to name a few. Those need to be protected, maintained, improved, and restored too. This is important work, and it is dignified work. If you are making sure it is in your obituary 70 years later, you know it is very important, dignified work. What better way to preserve the beauty of these places than having veterans do it, for our heroes to do it.

The bill also incorporates a number of other veterans job provisions from other bills sponsored by my colleagues from both sides of the aisle. The one I started to mention before is the certification-licensure requirements for becoming a nursing assistant or emergency medical technician—I knew I was looking for a word; it was ''technician''—and for getting a commercial driver's license. This is also an issue on which my colleague, my senior Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, has spent a lot of time.

The provision in this bill authored by Senator PRYOR also states that they have to take military training into consideration in issuing licenses for those jobs if they want to continue getting Federal funds for some important veteran employment programs that States administer. This will provide an additional incentive for States to make sure that servicemembers' highly relevant training and experience in these fields can be translated into civilian qualifications, eliminating the need for duplicative training and opening the door to many more jobs for highly trained veterans.

I can tell you, after seven USO tours, our men and women in the military are magnificent. They are highly trained and, man, are they disciplined and, man, are they great. They deserve this. The Veterans Job Corps is a great idea for employing our Nation's veterans doing the important work of preserving, protecting, and improving our Nation's public lands and serving as first responders, police, and firefighters.

It is my strong hope that we will be able to bring debate on this bill to a close, pass it, and have it enacted into law. Our Nation's veterans deserve nothing less.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the bill that is pending, and I must say: Here we go again. And let me say that what we are doing today, under the auspices of helping returning veterans get jobs—and there is nothing wrong with wanting to do that and there is nothing wrong with trying to pay for that—is really passing a bill for political reasons so we can say we did things, because this is not going anywhere in the House of Representatives.

A couple of points I would make are that, first, yesterday, on the anniversary of 9/11, we started the consideration of this bill, but this bill has had no hearings, no committee work, and essentially no debate until today, despite the fact that it will affect six different Federal agencies, at a minimum.

Before I discuss the bill itself, though, I want to mention another anniversary. One year ago yesterday, SPC Christopher D. Horton, Army SPC Bret D. Isenhower, and Army PVT Tony J. Potter, Jr. were killed in Afghanistan. They were 1 of 13 Oklahomans from the Oklahoma National Guard serving in Afghanistan who paid the ultimate sacrifice—a pure and noble sacrifice. As we debate a bill that will largely benefit those who have safely returned home after serving their country, it is important that we not forget those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, this pure and noble sacrifice for the benefit of the rest of us.

The bill before the Senate provides $1 billion—$1 billion—in mandatory spending. For the folks at home that means it is not subject to appropriations; it will be spent, period, regardless of what we do if we pass this bill and the President signs it—over 5 years for the creation of a new mandatory program called the Veterans Jobs Corps.

One point I will make is that we already have six veterans jobs programs and not one of them has a metric on it to see if it is working. There hasn't been one hearing to see what the jobs programs we are running now are doing, to measure their effectiveness or their cost effectiveness and see if they are actually performing for veterans what we say we want them to do. Yet we have a bill on the floor that didn't go through that committee, where no

hearings were held, and we are going to do the same thing again. Because there is not a metric in this bill.

So what is happening here is we are playing the political election card to say, How could anybody oppose a veterans jobs corps bill? The real question to be asked is: How callous is it to put forth a political bill when we have no idea whether it may or may not work, for the pure political purpose of an election, without looking at the whole of the veterans jobs programs? There is not going to be any congressional oversight on this.

Just 2 weeks ago I released a report on job training in my own State. I was highly effective in looking at every Federal Government job training program, veterans and nonveterans alike, in my State. I looked at every State job training program and then published a report. Here is what the report found.

And, by the way, we have 47 other job training programs, of which 90 percent don't have metrics on them, and we spend $19 billion a year on those job training programs.

What we found is that State-run, State-financed, State-supported job training programs work in Oklahoma. We actually take our own money, with our own institutions, with our own individuals and our own employees, knowing what businesses and industry and service industries and institutions need, and we match job training to what those needs are and actually put people to work. Consequently, Oklahoma has a 4.7-percent unemployment rate. So we are highly effective at training people for the jobs that are available. But we are not very effective with the Federal programs.

The assessment in Oklahoma—and I am not sure it applies across the country, but it certainly does in Oklahoma—is that we are very good at employing people in the job training industry but not very good with Federal dollars when it comes to training people a life skill to keep them employed.

This legislation is going to provide $1 billion for the Federal Government to hire veterans on a temporary basis.

I understand that Senator BURR's recommendations are going to be incorporated. That is a marked improvement to the bill. His puts them in line for a career, not a temporary job—which shows the lack of thinking because Senator BURR, the ranking member on VA, couldn't get a hearing. We didn't have a markup, didn't have a chance for ideas to flow through. I am not certain we are going to have amendments. I have four I would like to offer to the bill that are better payfors and will actually improve the bill. I am not sure we are going to do that either.

So we didn't have a hearing, and we didn't have a markup. We come to the floor, and we are not going to have amendments. What is this really all about? Is this about veterans or is this about politicians? I suspect it is about politicians. I suspect it is about elections and not veterans.

The legislation grants broad authority to the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, Department of Labor, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Homeland Security, the Interior Department, and the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans in jobs such as conservation and first responders.

However, to comply with the pay-go rules, we manipulate the system again. We include revenue increases to equal the cost of the bill. We do that by requiring a continuous levy on payments to Medicare providers and suppliers—which is not a bad idea—and also by denying or revoking passports in cases of seriously delinquent taxes. I have heard that is going to be pulled, but nobody knows. Nobody has seen it. That is why we have committees, so we don't have to play with things before we have a base bill and we know what it will do.

The bill already violates the Budget Control Act's allocation for Veterans Affairs funding. It is subject to a 302(f) point of order because it is outside the bounds of their appropriations.

The bill also states a distinct preference for veterans of the current war in Afghanistan and the most recent war in Iraq by stating that these jobs are primarily for veterans who have served since September 11, 2001.

As with the veterans caregiver bill in 2009, this is blatant discrimination against our other veterans. One class of veterans is better than another class of veterans? Tell me how. Is somebody who died in the Vietnam war less honorable than somebody who has given their life in Afghanistan? Yet we are making that distinction in terms of the benefits available to those who served our country honorably.

So we are blatantly discriminating against veterans who served before 9/11. I would also remind us that those veterans didn't have the post-9/11 GI bill. They didn't have the other significant benefits that have come along and been passed down, both paid benefits, family transfer of the post-9/11 bill, or the educational benefits for in-service that the present veterans have.

Another thing I would remind my colleagues is that right now there is a preference in every branch of the Federal Government for hiring veterans. It is already written into law. Since 1944 the Federal Government has stated that veterans with honorable or general discharges are preferred for hiring in competitive positions and may also be hired without competition in many cases. In other words, they get an absolute preference. Disabled veterans get even a higher preference over nondisabled veterans. Veterans also have priority in retention in terms of government downsizing: If you were a veteran, you don't get downsized; if you are not a veteran, you will.

Senator BURR's bill—which it appears the majority will take and add to their bill rather than replace their bill—will direct the Office of Personnel Management to require that each of the 10,000 job vacancies presently in the Federal Government today should be filled by veterans. This would actually provide a real career path for veterans, not a temporary make-work job slot that will go away as soon as the $1 billion runs out.

According to a 2011 GAO report, there are six job training programs, which I have outlined, already on the books. They are not working, but they are on the books, and we are spending money on them. We have no metrics to know whether they are working. We have had no oversight hearings to know whether they are working. None has ever been held.

There is the Labor Department's Disabled Veterans Outreach Program. It does job readiness, skills training, retention training, and employment counseling.

The Labor Department's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project does everything the first one I mentioned does.

The Labor Department's Veterans Employment Representative Program does exactly the same thing as the first two.

The Labor Department's Transition Assistance Program does job search and job readiness training.

The Labor Department's Veterans Affairs Workforce Investment, again, does all the same tasks as the first two I mentioned.

The Veterans Affairs' Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans Program does nearly everything from job training to employment counseling to job referral to on-the-job training to basic adult literacy.

This bill and those training programs are in addition to the post-9/11 GI bill and the Tuition Assistance Program, which provides 100 percent tuition assistance plus expenses, plus a monthly stipend salary for unemployed or any other veterans to attend college, vocational training, pursue licensure, with fees paid for by the Federal Government, and allows them to transfer this benefit to their spouses.

The question I have, with that benefit—and we are doing another one now for political purposes, not because we really care about veterans—why isn't this one working? We are going to spend billions on the post-9/11 GI bill, and we are going to pay them at the rate of a noncommissioned officer all the time they are going to college. Why isn't that working? Where is the oversight hearing to see why what we just did 2 years ago isn't working?

Instead, what we are going to do is—which the Congress has done under both Democrats and Republicans—we are going to throw in more money and do another one. Instead of measuring what works and measuring what we are doing, we are going to create another program. Granted, supposedly it is only 5 years.

When it comes to 5 years, what will happen whether it works or not? Nobody will vote against extending the veterans program, will they? How can anyone be against veterans?

So we would not do the hard work of having committee hearings; we would not do the oversight. We would not even change this bill to make sure it has absolute metrics on what it is doing. So we are continuing down the road to bankruptcy, all in the name of putting a bill—that isn't going to pass the House—on the Senate floor so two or three Members of the Senate can go home and claim they did something.

I think it is hypocritical. I don't think it matches the pure valor of the three individuals I mentioned. It doesn't come close. It doesn't measure up. Those 13 Oklahomans who died in Afghanistan this last year from the Oklahoma National Guard, the Thunderbirds, represented the real value of America. This bill doesn't.

The post-9/11 GI bill pays 100 percent of the highest cost public school in any State. So veterans can go to the best public school paid for completely by the government if they are a post-9/11 veteran. They can get the same equivalent pay as a noncommissioned officer the time they are going. That is what we have already got out there.

Without this legislation, today any unemployed veteran who can get into a community college can go for free, receive 3 years' of pay, all their expenses paid, their housing paid—all of those things paid.

Well, if that isn't working, why isn't it working? Where is the hearing to find out why that isn't working? No, we are just going to pass another bill without a hearing, without a committee markup, for politically expedient purposes. Oh, it is just $1 billion.

Where is our honor? Where is our valor? Where is our sacrifice?

The Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Program, another program, while you are in the military, is paid for. All you have to do is make a C or better—online, off line, whatever way you want to go.

So let me summarize: We have the Tuition Assistance Program, we have the post-9/11 GI bill, we have the GI bill, we have six separate VA job programs. We have a bill on the floor to do another one, and nobody is asking the question: What is wrong with what we are doing now, and why aren't we fixing it?

If what we are doing now isn't working, why aren't we fixing that? Why aren't we going to allow amendments to fix things? Why are we going to fill the tree and not allow the process that our Founders for designed the Senate to work so that all ideas could be considered?

No, this is a political exercise. I am going to call it what it is. This isn't about veterans; this is about politicians. My hope is that we wake up before our country fails.

When I came to the Senate, the average family's responsibility for public debt per individual was $26,000. Within the 8 years I have been here, it is now 51,400 and some-odd dollars. We are playing a game. We are thinking short term. We are worried about political careers and elections, but we are not worried about the country. This is about the greatest example of the incompetence of the Congress of United States I have ever seen.

I am for helping veterans, I am for paying for it, and I am for making sure they get rewarded for their service and their sacrifice. This bill isn't it. This is a charade. That is exactly what it is. To call it anything else dishonors the service of those who have defended and protected our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, like many of my colleagues, before I begin my remarks on the subject that brings me to the floor today, which is the DREAM Act, I wish to take a moment to reflect on the brutal, unconscionable attacks that occurred on our diplomatic posts in Libya and Egypt. Like many of my colleagues, I am outraged and saddened by the brutal murder of four courageous Americans in a cowardly, unconscionable attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Their families are in the thoughts and prayers of my family as they are for many others of my colleagues.

These great diplomats were patriots and professionals, putting their lives on the line to advance American ideals and interests. Their vital work is done daily by countless Americans, diplomats abroad who serve in every corner of the world.

In my own visit to Libya last year with a number of my colleagues, including Senator MCCAIN and Senator GRAHAM, I saw the vital work and the accomplishments of such brave Americans on the ground as well as the great peril and severe danger they constantly face. I also saw their sense of satisfaction and patriotism in the work they are doing. I add my voice to that of my colleagues asking for more support for security, enhanced safeguards, and protection for our diplomats in these kinds of situations. They go about their work with understated perseverance and determination as well as constant courage in the face of often chaotic and unpredictable dangers.

The cowardly attacks on these patriots should not deter the people of Libya from moving forward. Neither should it deter us from working together with others abroad who have a common interest in tolerance, freedom of speech, and democracy.

I commend President Obama and Secretary Clinton for their immediate response to this situation, their words of encouragement. I wish Godspeed to the Marine Corps Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team en route to Libya.

The diplomats who were killed in this tragic and brutal action embodied American values and the highest traditions, not only of the professionals among our career diplomats, but all who serve and sacrifice for this country in uniform in very similar situations of danger—the marines who guard our embassies as well as the other marines and troops who are fighting on foreign soil to uphold our freedoms.

THE DREAM ACT

Those American values in some sense bring me also to the floor today to talk about the DREAM Act and about a young generation of people in our communities across America and across the country who would benefit from this important legislation. Our immigration system right now is broken and is in dire need of comprehensive reform. Any comprehensive immigration reform legislation must include the DREAM Act. I believe the DREAM Act is worthy of adoption without that comprehensive overarching reform because these young Americans in our communities deserve the opportunity to earn their citizenship by contributing to our Nation. That is exactly the opportunity the DREAM Act seeks to afford them.

Over this last recess I was pleased to talk to many of those DREAMers. I was particularly proud to talk to them about the work a number of us are doing here, to try to achieve and make possible this legislation that would enable and empower them to contribute further. I am grateful to Senator DURBIN and others who have championed this measure at the Federal level, much as I have done in the State of Connecticut as attorney general. I was also proud to talk about the Department of Homeland Security's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy. This policy took effect on August 15 when DHS started to accept applications for deferred action.

Under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DREAMers will have a temporary reprieve—and I emphasize temporary reprieve—from deportation. This policy step is a good one. It is in the right direction. But it affords only a temporary reprieve.

The DREAM Act would afford a permanent path to individuals who qualify: individuals who have entered the United States before the age of 16; they have been brought here by parents who may be undocumented—but young children, many of them much younger than 16, most of them in fact younger than 5 or 6 years old and who have been present in the United States for at least 5 consecutive years prior to enactment of the bill; are here through no fault or action of their own but who want to be here permanently and contribute and give back. They must have graduated from a U.S. high school or have obtained a GED or have been accepted into an institution of higher education. They must be between the ages of 12 and 35 at the time of application and be of good moral character.

These requirements establish a path for people who want to contribute,

have come here through no fault of their own, know the United States as the only country where they have ever lived. They usually speak no other language. Their life and their friends and their future are here.

I want to talk, as I hope to do literally every week that I am able, about an individual who embodies the DREAM Act. Her name is Zuly Molina. Her full name, actually, is Zuleyma Molina, but she goes by ''Zuly.'' She is a proud member of our Connecticut community, one of 11,000 to 20,000 young people living in Connecticut who would benefit from the DREAM Act. Zuly is here with us today through her picture. I want to talk about her life, which has been full of hardships and challenges, but also her future.

She was born in Mexico and brought to America when she was 6 years old. Her family settled in Connecticut—in fact, in New Britain. She had to learn English, which was not easy for her. In fact, she was taunted and bullied because of her lack of language skills. But she was up to the challenge. She learned English. She speaks it absolutely fluently. She decided to go to the library and translate books on her own so that she would have a command of English. She went through the New Britain public schools and graduated from New Britain High School in 2008, but at that point there were additional challenges.

Zuly wanted to stay in Connecticut and perhaps attend 2 years of community college before going to a 4-year institution. But she was not eligible at that point for in-State tuition and the option of staying in Connecticut was simply too expensive.

What did she do? Endlessly resourceful and determined, she decided to commute every day to Bay Path College in Massachusetts. There she worked in many leadership positions outside the classroom. She was president of Rotaract, which is Rotary's youth service club for young people. She was vice president of the Bay Path Christian Fellowship. She was cocaptain of the cross-country team. And she graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology, becoming the first college graduate in her family.

She felt discouraged even after graduation because she knew she could not apply for many jobs that require documentation. She decided to pursue further education, a master's degree from Bay Path College in occupational therapy. She understands now life will not be easy, but her goals of working for a hospital's feeding program and pursuing an MD are realistic. She hopes she can pursue that profession so she can work for nonprofits that help families with low income—not altogether different from the one where she grew up.

It has taken many years for Zuly to accept and thank her mother for sending her to America. She would be upset—more than upset—if the land of her life, the land that she loves—America—refuses to give her the opportunity to stay here. She has that opportunity temporarily with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program. It is an administrative program. It could be ended with a new administration. It could be ended by any administration virtually overnight. She has applied for deferred action and she is undergoing the process, but she deserves more than a temporary reprieve. That is why I stand here urging my colleagues to enable Zuly to come out of the shadows, to seek a career that will enable her to contribute mightily and monumentally to all of us as a doctor, and to raise a family of her own here, as a proud United States citizen.

To these young people who identify as Americans and who were brought to this Nation at young ages as children or infants and who are here through no fault of their own, I urge my colleagues to offer one of the greatest gifts, one of the greatest privileges one can have, which is United States citizenship, so that we can say to the DREAMers on some day soon, ''my fellow American.''

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE RYAN BUDGET

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, we are at a moment in time when Americans across the country are confused by what they are hearing; it is hard to discern truth from fiction.

One of the proposals that is being talked about is from the Republican nominee for Vice President, PAUL RYAN, who is known for his budget proposals. We have to look at them squarely and decide what is reliable, what is true, and what is, as I said earlier, fiction.

Those proposals cut taxes for the rich, raise taxes on the middle class, while abandoning the sick, the poor, and our children. The Ryan budget can only be good for one very small group of Americans: the wealthiest among us.

Now, I was fortunate to succeed in business—succeed in a way that would have been impossible to dream about when I was growing up in a poor family. But I was helped by our country's government for my service in the military during the big war.

But in our democracy, each person gets one vote. So what do you do as a candidate for national office when your vision for the country is good for the few and bad for the many? You can pretend it is good for everybody. You can say it will benefit all Americans. In short, you can substitute fiction for truth. This approach was on brilliant display at the Republican Convention when PAUL RYAN claimed the Republican plan would help the middle class—help that, frankly, we believe would take us downhill instead of Operation Uplift.

An article on Fox News' Web site described his convention speech as, ''an apparent attempt to set the world record for the greatest number of blatant lies and misrepresentations slipped into a single political speech.''

Fox News, a conservative communications organization. Maybe that is why they call him ''Lyin' Ryan.'' His speech in Tampa was the most public and extreme example of the smokescreen he has been blowing around here for a long time. So today I want to look at the numbers in PAUL RYAN's budget because numbers don't lie, even if some politicians do.

It is obvious PAUL RYAN doesn't want us to see the specific programs he would cut, but let's look at the devastating consequences if his cuts were distributed evenly.

Under the Ryan budget, 200,000 preschool children would be kicked off of Head Start rolls in 2014. We have a chart that clearly shows that. Imagine slashing funding for a program designed to help children learn how to learn. In our country today there are many situations where children don't have parental advice or the encouragement of parents to learn. Head Start is a terrific program because Head Start teaches these children that learning is fun, so that when they enter school they are ready to accept learning and they look at it as something that will be interesting and pleasant and worth doing. RYAN's cuts are shortsighted and they are cruel and they will only harm America's future.

As much as $115 billion could be cut from education funding over the next decade if we follow the Ryan budget. With less support and rising costs for higher education, young people would be forced to take on more debt in order to attend college. If we were to talk to college students today, we would learn how tough it is, so that when they graduate from college they may have a debt of $50,000 to $100,000. And here they want the average college student to take on more. It is an outrage.

Why would anyone put obstacles in front of young people seeking an education? They are not concerned about those who want to learn or how they merge into our society.

I never would have been able to attend Columbia University without help from the government and the GI bill. When we came home from World War II, this country invested in us—and that investment helped create the ''greatest generation'' and decades of prosperity. The GI bill enabled me to cofound one of America's most successful companies, ADP. That company

today employs over 50,000 people in more than 23 countries. But instead of offering a helping hand to this generation's students, the Ryan proposal closes the door in their face.

Under the Ryan budget, government investments in science, technology, and medical research could also be shortchanged—cut by more than $100 billion over the next 10 years. Medical research funding alone could take a hit of nearly $6 billion by 2014. This would delay research on new treatments for diseases such as cancer, childhood asthma, and juvenile diabetes. All of these would start to fall by the wayside.

We have a chart that says the Republican budget plan would take $5.8 billion that would otherwise be used for asthma, juvenile diabetes, cancer, autism, and more. Who would want to deliver a message to a parent in America that says: Your country cannot provide the funds to cure your child's illness?

The Ryan budget also wants to add pain to those dependent on health care programs. Instead of reassuring seniors that they can look forward to retirement in good health, he adds anxiety with cuts. He has proposed to end Medicare as we know it, giving seniors a voucher instead of a guarantee. If that voucher can't cover the cost of needed medical services, this is the Republicans' attitude: Too bad. You are on your own. If RYAN succeeds, tell the Medicare beneficiaries that their costs for medical services can be increased at the will of insurance companies.

RYAN's plan says: All right, cut Medicaid—that is a program for the impoverished—cut Medicaid by more than $800 billion over a 10-year period. Medicaid is there to provide vital resources for expectant mothers and nursing home care for seniors. We created Medicare and Medicaid to be there for seniors and the poor when they get sick. RYAN, with that sharp knife of his, wants to cut funding and break that promise. It is shameful.

A budget isn't just a collection of numbers; it is an expression of principles and priorities, and we shouldn't look at a budget like an auditor. We should see it as a way to fulfill the obligations of our democracy and to be there for those who need help. A budget sets forth a vision for our Nation's future and makes a statement about what counts in America and what are our values.

So when we see the budget authored by PAUL RYAN called ''marvelous'' by Mitt Romney—Mitt Romney, candidate for President of the United States called this budget by PAUL RYAN and the budget passed by the House Republicans ''marvelous''—we should be deeply disturbed. It is an outrage for Republicans to say we should give the wealthiest Americans more tax breaks as they increase the burden on a middle class already struggling to afford the essentials. Who are we going to fight for, middle-class families or the multimillionaires?

In our country last year, 400 people made over $200 million on average. Should they carry their fair share of the country's opportunities and continue to invest in the country rather than shepherd the funds for their own personal use?

Everybody knows we cannot build a house from the chimney down and we cannot build a balanced society by soaking the poor to feed the rich. At a time when our economy is fighting strong headwinds, when too many Americans are out of work, PAUL RYAN and his running mate offer the same old prescription: tax cuts for the rich and austerity for everybody else. We will not hear this from him. PAUL RYAN likes to distract and distort. He has been hiding the truth about his budget so the American people do not truly know what is going on.

The bottom line is this: PAUL RYAN knows very well he cannot afford to tell the American people what his real agenda is because he knows what would happen. There would be no more buyers for what he is selling. Americans are now seeing the values the Republican Party and their new leader PAUL RYAN are fighting for.

We let the Republicans have their way for 8 years, and it led to the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Very often we will hear them say: Obama has not done what he should have done. There are 4 million more people working now in the private sector than there were just two years ago and people are excited about the health care plan because they know this health plan is going to help them be better, have wellness in their lives. It ultimately will reduce costs substantially.

It goes that way. But rather than help those who could use a boost, could use some support—could use it to make sure their kids get educated or to help their parents, the people who built the strength of this country over the years, past generations—rather than help them, let's protect those, the wealthiest, who do not need the help.

During World War II, there was an excess profits tax. That tax was there, designed to take some of the excess profits that companies were making. Now we ought to apply the same logic. We have people fighting for their lives in Afghanistan and other places. Instead of saying let's make sure everybody feels like they are included in this great democracy of ours, they are saying: No, let them take care of themselves. As a matter of fact, it was suggested by Mitt Romney, the candidate for President—he said these college students ought to borrow from their parents. In many cases, the parents are struggling to keep food on the table or pay the rent or the mortgage.

Enough is enough. There is too much at stake to let ourselves be fooled by their tricks once again. We have to support the programs that have been working. Perfectly? Not yet, but they are getting better all the time. More people are going to work and more people view America as an opportunity for them to succeed in life.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

While I have the floor, I wish to pay my respects to Ambassador Chris Stevens' family and to note that four American heroes were murdered yesterday at the American embassy in Benghazi, Libya, people who had an assignment to make sure their country, America, was working in Libya to try to bridge the gaps that might exist. It is a terrible tragedy that happened. We all have to note our sorrow.

My deepest condolences are with their families, their friends and loved ones as they mourn the loss of these patriots. This is a tragedy about which all Americans are deeply saddened.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Senator GRAHAM from South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to speak about the horrific attack yesterday on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi that killed four American citizens. The two confirmed thus far to be among the dead are Sean Smith, an Air Force veteran turned State Department information management officer, and Ambassador Chris Stevens, one of America's finest and bravest Foreign Service officers.

I did not know Sean Smith—I know he was a great American who served his country—but I had gotten to know Chris Stevens quite well. In Ambassador Chris Stevens' death, the Libyan people have lost a great champion and believer in the peaceful aspirations of their democratic revolution; the American people have lost a selfless and dedicated servant of our interests and our values, and I have lost a friend.

My thoughts and prayers today are with Chris's family and the loved ones of his fallen colleagues. May God grant them comfort in their time of grief.

Our most urgent order of business now is to make sure our citizens still living and serving in Libya and Egypt and elsewhere across the region and the world are safe. Americans look to the governments in Libya and Egypt and elsewhere to meet their responsibilities in this regard. We also look to the Libyan Government to ensure that

those responsible for yesterday's attack in Benghazi are swiftly brought to justice. In all of these critical tasks, we are confident that our government will provide all necessary assistance and support.

Yesterday's attacks are an important reminder that so many of America's civilians and diplomats and development professionals are risking everything—everything—to advance our Nation's interests and values abroad. We must do everything in our power to ensure their security.

At the same time, our thoughts turn to broader concerns: the mourning of our fallen friends, and how we as a Nation should respond to these tragic events.

One of my most memorable meetings with Chris Stevens was last April in Benghazi. As U.S. Envoy to the Libyan opposition, Chris had traveled to Benghazi at great personal risk to represent the country he loved so much while Libya was still gripped in a brutal fight for freedom. It was clear there was nowhere that Chris would rather have been than Libya. We spent the day together, meeting Libyan opposition leaders and many ordinary citizens, who spoke movingly about how much the opportunity to finally live in freedom meant to them, and how grateful they were for America's support. Chris Stevens embodied that support, and his passion for his mission was infectious.

I kept in touch with him often and frequently after my visit. I was very happy when President Obama nominated him to be America's Ambassador to the new Libya. The last time I saw Chris Stevens was shortly after he had taken his post, during my most recent visit to Tripoli. I especially remember the lighter moments we spent together, including when Chris insisted on personally making me a cappuccino, a task that he carried out with as much pride and proficiency as his diplomatic mission.

That was on the morning of July 7—the day Libyans voted in their first election in half a century. Chris Stevens and I spent the day together again, traveling around Tripoli, visiting polling places, and speaking with Libyan voters. We met a man whose father had been murdered by Qadhafi's henchmen. We met a woman whose brothers had recently given their lives fighting for their country's liberation. We met countless others, including many older Libyans, who were voting for the first time in their lives. And everywhere we went, we were greeted by crowds of cheering Libyans, bursting with pride and eager to shake our hands and express their gratitude for America's support. It was one of the most moving experiences of my life, and it was only made better by the fact that I got to share it with our outstanding Ambassador, Chris Stevens.

What we saw together on that day was the real Libya—the peaceful desire of millions of people to live in freedom and democracy, the immense gratitude they felt for America's support for them, and their strong desire to build a new partnership between our nations. That is why I am not surprised that senior Libyan leaders were among the first to condemn the horrific attack that killed Chris and his colleagues. And that is why I was not surprised to learn from our Secretary of State that many Libyans fought to defend our people and our consulate in Benghazi when they came under attack, that some were wounded while doing so, and that it was Libyans who sought to get Chris and his colleagues to the hospital. And that is why we cannot afford to view the despicable acts of violence perpetrated yesterday by a small group of fanatics as in any way representative of the country and the people of Libya. That is not the real Libya, the Libya Chris Stevens knew and learned to love so well.

After such a heartbreaking loss for our Nation, I know many Americans are asking whether the United States was naive or mistaken to support the vast movement for change that is known as the Arab spring. I know many Americans may feel a temptation, especially with so many domestic and economic challenges facing us here at home, to distance ourselves from people and events in Libya and Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East. We cannot afford to go down that path.

Yesterday's attack in Benghazi was the work of a small group of violent extremists, whose goals and actions could not be more at odds with those of the people and government of Libya. The Libyan revolution began peacefully and was dedicated throughout to the ideals of freedom and justice and democratic change. When Libyans turned out by the millions to elect a new government in July, they gave the plurality of their vote not to religious fanatics but to a political party led by a moderate technocrat and committed to friendship with the United States.

Libyans arose last year to free themselves from exactly the kinds of murderers and terrorists who killed our American citizens yesterday in Benghazi. Their enemies are our enemies, and they remain as committed as ever to imposing their evil ideology through violence on people in Libya and the Middle East, and ultimately on us. They want to hijack the Arab spring for their own insidious purposes. If we turn our backs now on the millions of people in Libya and Egypt and Syria and other countries across the Middle East—people who share so many of our values and interests, people who are the true authors of the Arab spring—we will hand our common enemies—the terrorists and extremists—the very victory they seek.

We were right to take the side of the Libyan people and others in the region who share their peaceful aspirations. We would be gravely mistaken to walk away from them now. To do so would not only be a betrayal of everything Chris Stevens and his colleagues believed in and ultimately gave their lives for, it would be a betrayal of America's highest values and our own enduring national interest in supporting people in the Middle East and the world who want to live in peace and freedom.

Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by my friend from Connecticut. I know he shares with me the sorrow that we and all Americans feel at the loss of a brave and dedicated American. But it will be a long time before we forget Chris Stevens because he will stand as a shining example of patriotism and love of country.

Chris Stevens was not unaware of the danger he faced. He was privy to intelligence information, and others. But he went forward and did his job with a smile, with love of his country, and love of the country where he was serving. I cannot be more proud of Ambassador Chris Stevens.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Arizona for his very eloquent statement. I associate myself with it.

It strikes me, as I listen, that it was no accident that these violent extremists launched this attack on the American consulate in Benghazi, Libya, on 9/11, on September 11—a day of infamy in our history, a day when people across our country and around the world were commemorating the worst terrorist attack in our history, which was September 11, 2001.

Those who perpetrated the attack on the consulate in Benghazi, which resulted in the death of our Ambassador Chris Stevens carried out an act of terrorism and barbarism that they hope will sow fear and hatred between Americans and Muslims, just as Osama bin Laden and his followers hoped that attack of 9/11, 2001, would do 11 years ago. But we did not let bin Laden succeed then, and we will not let these violent extremists who killed Chris Stevens yesterday in Benghazi succeed in dividing America and the West from Muslims and the Arab world. Good, well-intentioned people in both great communities will rise and join together to renounce these extremists and killers.

I want to speak for a moment about Ambassador Stevens.

Simply put, Chris Stevens was one of the finest, bravest, most spirited, most talented diplomats in our Nation's service.

As a volunteer in the Peace Corps, he served in Morocco, where he was inspired to pursue a lifetime of service in the Middle East. When the uprising against Muammar Qadhafi began in February of last year, Chris was the deputy chief of mission at our Embassy in Tripoli, Libya.

He was evacuated, along with other American personnel, from the country, but returned to Libya within weeks as the Special Envoy of the United States

of America to the opposition there—courageously slipping into rebel-held Benghazi onboard a cargo freighter. It was an act of bravery that typified Chris Stevens' service to our country and his devotion to our Nation's ideals and his commitment to build bridges between Americans and Arabs, Americans and Muslims.

Chris remained in Benghazi throughout the war, standing with the people of Libya during some of the darkest and most difficult hours in their struggle for freedom.

He became, in fact, the bright symbol of America, a heroic and inspiring figure to many Libyans, as Senator MCCAIN and Senator GRAHAM and I heard during our visits, and was thus the natural choice of President Obama to become our Ambassador to Tripoli after the Qadhafi regime fell. This is also why his death at the hands of violent extremists in Benghazi, which was the seat of the revolution against Qadhafi, is so tragic and infuriating. Of course, we still do not know what happened at our consulate in Benghazi yesterday, but what is clear is that these attackers have to be apprehended and must be punished.

I am encouraged but not surprised by the statements of Libya's leaders condemning this attack. I say I am not surprised because these statements of condemnation of those who killed Chris Stevens are consistent with what I know the leaders of the new Libya to be, what I know to be their profound admiration and love for Chris Stevens and their respect and gratitude for the United States of America. We look now to the Libyan Government to act swiftly and decisively and to our own government to provide the Libyans whatever support they need to find the attackers and killers.

While a specific group of individuals was responsible for this evil act and their target immediately was the Americans in that consulate—but really their target was the new order in Libya, and they were animated in this by an ideology that is now all too familiar to us that we cannot ignore or excuse. This hateful and violent ideology is a threat not just to the lives of Americans like Chris Stevens and the three others who died yesterday in Benghazi but to the future of Libya and the future of the Muslim world. It is the exact opposite of the ideals that inspired millions of Libyans to rise up last year against Qadhafi to realize their dreams of a life of dignity, democracy, and human rights. For that reason, it is imperative now for those Libyan people themselves to echo their leaders and condemn this violence and take on the extremists who have taken shelter in their midst and who threaten to hijack their revolution and imperil the future of their country, returning them to days as dark as under Qadhafi.

I know the overwhelming majority of Libyans reject this violent extremist agenda. They want a good education for their children. They want foreign investment that will create jobs and raise their standard of living. After 42 years of despair and oppression under Qadhafi, they badly want again to be part of the world, part of the modern world. The United States should stand ready and willing to help them on that path.

The fact is that the people who killed Chris Stevens yesterday in Benghazi do not represent the people of Libya or their elected leadership. But these killings require confronting the extremist minority that imperils this future, the fanatics who want a clash of civilizations between the Muslims and the West and who will try to justify their violence in the name of Islam. They are wrong. They are mistaken. They are on the wrong side of history.

Finally, let me come back home and say—to echo what Senator MCCAIN just said—that I know there will be some here in our country who in the wake of this attack will be tempted to argue that it shows that America's support for the Libyan revolution was naive or mistaken, that the Arab spring will ultimately be defined not by a desire for democracy and freedom among the people of the Middle East and Arab world but by the dark fanaticism of al-Qaida and its associates and that the United States should give up trying to support people in this part of the world and instead retrench back here at home. That would be terribly wrong. That would misunderstand the motivations of the people who have risen in the Arab world to overthrow the totalitarian governments that dominated their lives. They do not want the fanaticism of al-Qaida. They want the bright light of a democratic future.

We cannot allow what happened yesterday to be a victory for the extremists and the terrorists because to do so would be a betrayal of everything Ambassador Chris Stevens stood for, which is to say a betrayal of America's best ideals.

I note the presence on the floor of the Senator from South Carolina. I would yield to him at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. I will be brief. There is not a whole lot to be added to the eloquent statements of my two friends other than to be here and to let the family of Chris Stevens know that we saw in their loved one what you saw—a wonderful man who did great things with a life cut way too short.

I do not think most Americans can ever appreciate the leadership Chris provided in Libya and throughout the world at a time when we needed it the most. So America has lost one of her greatest diplomats, the Libyans have lost one of their best friends, and the family has lost their dear loved one.

The one thing I can say for sure—Senator LIEBERMAN just mentioned it—do not compound this tragedy. The worst possible outcome is to take the death of this wonderful, noble man and use it as an excuse to withdraw from Libya and the region and turn it over to the thugs who killed him. Chris would not want that, it is not in our national security interest, and Republicans and Democrats do not want that.

To the American people who are war-weary and frustrated, I totally get it. But the Arab spring—call it what you like—is a historic opportunity to change things in the Middle East. It will not come without a fight.

What we are trying to do in the Mideast and what the people in the Mideast are trying to do is have a better life for themselves. If you are a young person, you have been exposed to life outside of the corrupt country in which you live and you see it can be better and, quite frankly, you are demanding it can be better. You are demanding a better say if you are a young woman. You are demanding economic opportunity if you come from a certain class, not available to you today. And Chris Stevens risked his life because he understood that those demands were just and in our best interests. The people whom we are fighting and the people the Libyan people are fighting are the ones who have no interest in this agenda of being able to choose a better path for young women, being able to be tolerant, open, accept free markets, and to have a place where people can live their own dreams.

The world which we are fighting—your dreams are defined by the Ayatollah. Your aspirations are defined by someone else's view of where you should go and what you should be based on their interpretation of God's plan for you. That, to me, is so unacceptable that it compels people like Chris Stevens to risk their lives. That is what is at stake.

The good news is that we will beat these folks. The ace in the hole is that the people in Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, Afghanistan, and Iraq now have been exposed to a different way of life. Given the capacity, they have the will to fight back. But if we think this is going to be done without a struggle, we are kidding ourselves. Chris knew that. He knew the fight that was going on for the heart and soul of the Arab spring in Libya was a fight worth engaging in and, yes, risking one's life for. What more can you say about a fellow human being, an American, than the fact that they realized their time on Earth could be best spent in service of a cause, as Senator MCCAIN said, greater than themselves. Chris understood what was at stake. He went to a place he did not have to go. He accepted risks he could have avoided. He did it for all the right reasons.

The one thing we should all unite around is that what compelled Chris Stevens to risk his life is absolutely in our national security interest; that is, to get the Mideast right, have a second opportunity never known before in the Mideast to live in peace with people who in the past wanted to kill us all. I am convinced that if we stick with it and we learn the lessons of Chris Stevens' life, we will eventually prevail

because the ones who want to kill us all are really a minority. The ones who would live with us in peace if they could just need our help. Let it be said that Chris Stevens was there to help.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank my friend for his eloquent words. I would also like to again emphasize that there were four brave Americans—four. Sean Smith was one of them, a truly great American. There are two others—we do not even know their identity. So I hope the families who have suffered this loss appreciate that we grieve for all. We had the opportunity of knowing Chris Stevens. I did meet Sean Smith and the others. We mourn for them, and we thank them for their service to this Nation.

I ask my friend from Connecticut, wouldn't the worst legacy of Chris Stevens' service to this country be a movement of the United States to withdraw, to fortress America, to renounce our service to the world in helping these countries achieve the same democracy and freedom for which our forefathers strived? I do not mean to use his death as any kind of political agenda, but I remember him well enough to know that the worst outcome of this tragedy would be for the United States to withdraw. In fact, I am confident that if he were here, he would be urging us to get right back in, bring these extremists to justice, and press on with the democracy and freedom the people of Libya deserve and have earned at great loss of blood and treasure.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I could not agree more with my friend from Arizona. It would really dishonor the service of Chris Stevens and the other three Americans who served us in Libya if their murders by these extremists led us to retrench and pull out of Libya and stop supporting the new Libyan Government, democratically elected, pull out of other parts of the Arab world. That would be exactly the opposite of what Ambassador Stevens devoted his life to. As I mentioned, inspired by his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco, he devoted the rest of his life to service on America's behalf in the Middle East. The last thing he would want this murder to do is to lead us to pull out, leave the area.

It would also be the fondest hope of the attackers, the extremists. Why do they attack? They attack to kill individual people, but they really attack to, as I said before, push America out and create a war between the Western world, America, and Islam. It is not natural. It is not the direction in which history is going. History is going much more toward integration. In fact, the revolution in Libya, which has gone so successfully when you consider the 40 years of dictatorship under which they lived—they held a free election. They elected what I would describe as a moderate rule-of-law slate to run the country. But those uprisings in Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, and now in Syria are the most profound rejection and defeat for the extremism of al-Qaida and its allies and presumably this group who attacked the American consulate in Benghazi yesterday. I understand that the results of some of the first elections are unclear, in some sense unsettled to some people here, but the fact is they have chosen democracy. People are self-governing, and they are looking for a better life. That is exactly the opposite of what bin Laden, al-Qaida, and I would guess the people who killed Chris Stevens yesterday desire.

Senator MCCAIN is absolutely right. I can almost hear Chris Stevens saying: Come on. Get up. Stay in the fight. Do not surrender to the crazies, to the fanatics, to the violent extremists. Stand with the overwhelming majority, with the people of Libya, who want what we want—a better future for themselves and their families.

Mr. MCCAIN. I wish to say in conclusion that I thank my old and dear friend from Connecticut and the Senator from South Carolina.

Finally, I would share with my colleagues that on last July 7 I was in Tripoli with Chris Stevens and it was the first free and fair election the Libyan people ever experienced. As we went from polling place to polling place, we met people who had lost brothers, husbands, fathers, mothers, and sisters at the hands of one of the more brutal butchers who has ever been on Earth, Muammar Qadhafi.

That night we went to the square, where some 200,000 people were driving around, honking horns, celebrating, and waving Libyan flags. It was a really auspicious start. And as Senator LIEBERMAN pointed out, it was a moderate group who were elected to govern Libya by the people of Libya. Chris Stevens was recognized by all of them. They knew Chris Stevens and they knew what he represented—the United States of America.

So those are memories I will never forget, and I hope his family will appreciate the magnificent service he provided to this Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, before I say what I originally came down here to say, I want to join my colleagues in condemning the senseless, horrible attack at the U.S. Consulate in Libya and pay tribute to the four Americans, including our Ambassador there, Chris Stevens, who were killed. I think all of us hope the killers will be brought to justice quickly, and I suspect that will be the case.

Our country has lost four true public servants in the part of public service which is the least known and sometimes the most important. It is a high calling, public service in general, but especially in dangerous places around the world. Ambassador Stevens was a serious, dedicated, and highly experienced diplomat with a tremendous depth of expertise in Libya and the region. He and his colleagues spent their lives working on behalf of the United States of America and I hope their proud families and the entire diplomatic corps know we are deeply grateful as a people.

This cowardly attack is a setback, but it will not stop us from our mission of promoting freedom and democracy for the people of Libya, and it should not. It will not keep our diplomats from their important work overseas.

I remember when I was a student in Japan, the Ambassador there at the time, back in the early 1960s, was a fellow named Dr. Edwin Reischauer, who was probably at that time the preeminent Japanologist in America. He was a gentle, wonderful, marvelous person whom the Japanese loved. He was stabbed in one of those senseless things that happen. It can happen on American streets, but it can happen on the streets of other countries, even with security. Some mad person got in and stabbed him in a traditional Japanese manner with a Japanese sword. It was a horrible event, but he survived and it enlarged his legend. There was no bitterness from his family or his wife, and it didn't set anything back. The person was brought to justice.

Now I wish to speak also about other ways we must join together to help those who serve our country, and that is in creating job opportunities for our unemployed veterans. We have many veterans, and too many of them are unemployed or homeless. I am now talking about the Veterans Jobs Corps Act. This is a responsible investment and we should do it promptly.

Standing for our veterans has been one of my top priorities since I began public service. You can't help but be that way if you live in West Virginia. I suspect it is true in Oregon and lots of places all over the country. By definition it is true, but it is always personal, and in the Senate it has never waned.

Before I was a Senator, the person who held my seat for a long time was Senator Jennings Randolph. I took his place on the Veterans Committee and I have been on it now for 28 years. It is a glorious committee, brilliantly led now by Senator PATTY MURRAY. I was chairman once myself, perhaps not quite so brilliantly.

So many brave servicemembers, men and women, have fought to defend our way of life. People say that, and it is true, and they protect us each and every day. After such courageous and selfless actions, the least we can do is make sure when they return home they get good jobs, because they deserve those good jobs.

Military experience builds leadership, dedication, bravery, and teamwork, and these traits are learned from working on the frontlines. Not everything in the military happens on the frontlines, but I just happen to be talking about that particular aspect in my short remarks. No experience could prepare these workers better for the jobs they hope to do after they leave their military service.

I have a nephew who has just come back from Afghanistan. He may be 23, maybe 25, but he is almost unreachable in his strength, his patriotism, and what has happened to him as a human being internally, intellectually, and in broad vision. He has grown so large and so great. He has a job, so I am not talking about him, but with so many brave servicemembers—men and women—we need to pay attention to them when they come home.

Political rhetoric and partisanship have no business delaying efforts to help our veterans. Everybody likes to talk about veterans—actually, a lot of bills do pass but not as many bills as should. Veterans did not delay or decline when we called them for deployment, so we should not delay now.

It is tragic that the unemployment rate for younger returning veterans is so much higher than the national unemployment rate. In 2011, the unemployment rate for young male veterans was over 29 percent, more than 11 percent higher than nonveterans of precisely the same age. It is heartbreaking that those who bravely served face unemployment or homelessness. This bill will not solve all problems, but it will solve many of them.

West Virginians understand the importance of military service. With nearly 170,000 West Virginian veterans, we need to be sure they have our full support: getting a job, getting health care, and getting their pensions. These words come out of one's mouth easily; getting the job done is harder.

The Veterans Job Corps Act invests in our veterans and in our communities. Veterans would have a new opportunity to serve and protect America by gaining priority placement in first responder positions, such as police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians. That makes sense, doesn't it? Our veterans have the experience and the instinct to do these jobs—they did it while they served—and our communities need their help.

I don't know what is going to happen to the budget, but it is not going to be rosy and happy, and we need to have those jobs which help protect us and keep us safe in play, for our veterans and for others too. It would create conservation and resource management jobs for veterans, enlisting them in efforts to rebuild America through restoration of our forests, parks, coasts, and public lands. I think the Presiding Officer would agree that is important.

The Veterans Job Corps Act would establish a pilot program to provide veterans with access to the Internet and computers to assist in job searches and would offer the military's Transition Assistance Program to eligible veterans—and their spouses—at sites outside military installations in order to make it easier to relocate and pursue job opportunities.

The legislation would also provide veterans in rural areas, such as West Virginia and Oregon, with greater access to career specialists to help them write resumes and prepare for interviews and therefore to find jobs. The programs in the Veterans Job Corps Act are supported by a fully paid-for $1 billion investment in our veterans' futures. It is a responsible effort to support our veterans and provide help for communities across America.

In closing, I would like to especially thank Leader REID and Chairman MURRAY for working with me to protect West Virginian jobs as part of this bill. The Veterans Job Corps Act is an important investment in our Nation's veterans and our economy, and I hope we can quickly move this bill through the Congress.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I want to first join with the many Senators today who have strongly condemned the violent attacks against the men and women serving bravely in our diplomatic corps. The senseless murders in Libya are a reminder of the dangers these public servants take on every day and the courage they show in furthering our diplomatic goals all across the globe. We are all so grateful to them. My thoughts and prayers go out to Ambassador Chris Stevens and the other victims of the attack, and I stand with the President, as we all do, in supporting efforts to secure those who continue to serve us abroad.

I have come to the floor today to respond to the statements that were made here earlier, that are completely inaccurate, about the bill we are currently considering on the floor, the Veterans Job Corps bill. In particular, I want to respond to the baseless and frankly offensive charges the Senator from Oklahoma made, insinuating that supporters of this bill don't ''really care about veterans'' and that this bill ''isn't about veterans.''

I have been working on veterans issues in the Senate for nearly two decades and in all of that time, under Democratic and Republican-controlled Senates, under administrations of both parties and in times of war and peace, if there was one issue I have seen that rises above the day-to-day bomb throwing that often characterizes the debate here, it has been the care and benefits for our veterans.

We can certainly disagree about policy, of course. We can fight with all of our hearts for what we think is right. But never—never—have I seen accusations that one party or one group was not fighting for what they believed to be right for our veterans. In fact, the accusations leveled on the floor here earlier today were one of the biggest departures from the spirit of cooperation around veterans issues I have seen in my time in the Senate. So I am here today to set the record straight about the steps this bill takes to put our veterans back to work.

In doing so, I will not question the motives or the degree to which those who may oppose this legislation care for our veterans because, as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee myself, I see Republicans' commitment every single day. I will not level allegations designed to make our veterans political pawns and I certainly will not mislead anyone about what we have set out to do. I will not because honestly I believe our veterans deserve far better. What they and the American people deserve is the truth.

The truth is that caring for our veterans and helping to provide them with the training they need to find jobs when they return home is a cost of the wars we have fought for the last decade. The truth is that less than 1 percent of U.S. citizens serve and sacrifice for the well-being of the other 99 percent. The truth is that what the Senator from Oklahoma calls a charade is an effort to give those veterans as many avenues as possible to find work. It is an effort to give them the economic security and self-esteem that only a job can provide and that is so essential to their return home.

I understand it has taken some in the Senate a long time to come to grips with the fact that our fiscal commitment we owe to those who wear the uniform does not end the day they are discharged. The truth is, it is not enough to give our veterans a pat on the back for their military service. We also have to give them a helping hand in the job market today. As the jobs report that was released last month reminds us, we have over 720,000 unemployed veterans across the Nation, including over 225,000 veterans who served since September 11. Despite what the Senator from Oklahoma may have said, this bill makes the resources available to all of them. In fact, that is exactly why we brought this bill forward.

What we need right now is an ''all hands on deck,'' ''all of the above'' strategy. That is why in fact this bill includes both Democratic and Republican ideas. This is a bill that will increase training and hiring opportunities for all veterans, using proven job training programs from across the country. For instance, it increases grants under the COPS and SAFER Programs that we have seen work to train and hire qualified veterans to work as police officers, firefighters,

and other first responders. This is at a time when 85 percent of law enforcement agencies were forced to reduce their budgets last year. It comes at a time when we face a $10 billion maintenance backlog for our public lands. This bill will help training and hire veterans to restore and protect our national, State, and tribal forests, our parks, and our other public lands.

Because training and hiring veterans has never been and should never be an effort that divides us, we have included a host of Republican ideas into this bill. We included a bill from Senator TOOMEY that gives veterans increased access to computers and Internet tools to help them find jobs in in-demand areas in their own communities. We included a bill sponsored by Senator BOOZMAN that will increase transition assistance programs for eligible veterans and their spouses. And we included a very important provision from Senators on both sides of the aisle that will help force our States to consider the military experience of our veterans when they issue licenses and certifications—something we have all heard when we go home.

We figured this comprehensive bipartisan approach would certainly be enough to gain Republican support, even if it did come as we are, of course, inching closer to an election. But over the course of the last 48 hours or so we have heard that Republicans, including Senator BURR, who is the ranking member of my committee, had an alternative version of the bill that Republicans wanted to push forward. The bill of Senator BURR includes a system to have States certify military experience for jobs skills and helps veterans get hired into the Federal workforce, among a number of other provisions. It appeared to all of us that this late alternative might derail what I believe can be and ought to be a bipartisan effort. But again, we are committed to making this a bipartisan effort. So, instead of showing our veterans that we are just about gridlock and partisanship, here is what we have done.

Because, as I said before, this has to be an ''all of the above'' approach, we have, therefore, added every one of the provisions in the alternative offered by Senator BURR to our bill. Now I believe we have an even more bipartisan, more inclusive bill on the floor right now awaiting action. This is a bill that is paid for with offsets that both Republicans and Democrats have supported. It is a bill unquestionably that represents ideas from both sides of the aisle, including now from the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

There is no reason now that Republicans should not join us in passing this bill and passing it quickly, because this does not have to be an either/or situation. Neither party has the magic bullet to solve these problems, so we have to open as many proven opportunities to employment as we can.

You know, veterans are out there watching and waiting. They are tired of excuses and they certainly have no stomach for the kind of political posturing they saw earlier today, that comes only at their expense.

I know some Republicans have pointed to the calendar as the reason for their opposition to this bill. Honestly, I wish it were not September and we did not have to deal with the silly season here in Washington, DC. But who could care less about what month it is or how many days out from an election we are? Here is the issue: Nearly 1 million unemployed veterans are looking for work today. They are concerned about what jobs are available in their communities. Their concern is what training program they can take advantage of and what is being done to honor their two or three tours overseas.

This is a bill now that offers them new resources to answer those questions. It is a bill that will help them serve their community and help them provide honorably for their families. I truly hope now, with the change we have added to the alternative bill offered by Senator BURR, we will have overcome our last hurdle before passage.

I come to the floor today to urge Republicans to join us now in rising above politics as we have done time and time again for our veterans. Ignore the calendar and the never-ending chatter about who is up and who is down. That is not what this is about. This is about making sure our veterans come first this and every week and that we intend to keep our commitment to them for their services.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I am here to talk about the important Veterans Job Corps Act of 2012 that is on the floor of the Senate. But I did wish to first express my thoughts, as so many of my colleagues have done on both sides of the aisle, that I strongly condemn the attacks in Egypt and Libya. I have been deeply saddened by the death of our Ambassador there as well as several other American citizens, and I join all Americas in not only condemning these attacks but also in sending my prayers and thoughts to the families of those killed by those senseless and horrific acts of violence.

On to the Veterans Corps Job Act. As we all know, as we have seen by this horrific violence and by what we have seen overseas and in the Mideast, our troops face that every single day when they are there, as do our diplomats. They face that kind of threat. When they come home to this country, we must treat them with great dignity and respect.

I have always believed that when we ask our young men and women to fight in defense of our Nation, we make a promise that we will give them the resources they need to complete their mission. We also promise to take care of them when they come home to this country. When they signed up to serve, there was no waiting line, and when they come home to the United States of America and they need a job or they need health care or need an education, there should never be a waiting line.

As a Senator from Minnesota, fighting for our veterans has been a major focus. While we do not have an Active-Duty base, we have the fifth largest National Guard in the country. Given that our population is only 22nd in the country, we can see we have a lot of people who want to serve our country and sign up to serve on the frontline. We have worked to cut through the redtape and streamline credentialing to help servicemembers transition their military skills into good-paying jobs at home. To give just one example, right now returning paramedics are too often unable to count the medical training they receive in the military toward receiving a license to become a civilian emergency medical technician.

That is why I introduced the Veterans to Paramedics Act to fix that problem by encouraging States to give paramedics credit for the medical training they have already received in the military. Not only does this help our veterans, it also helps relieve the shortage of emergency medical personnel, especially in our rural areas, where we have seen those shortages.

With commonsense solutions such as these, we cannot only fulfill our commitment to our veterans but we can also help lift our economy and make sure people who have the skills fill the jobs we have available. This is what the Veterans Job Corps Act is all about, fulfilling our promise to our veterans, ensuring training and the opportunities they need to find good-paying jobs and strengthening our Nation in the process.

To list just a few of the important provisions in this bill, first, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act gives veterans a new opportunity to serve and protect America by granting them prioritized placement in first responder positions such as police, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

Second, this bill would create conservation and resource management jobs for veterans, enlisting their help in building a stronger and more beautiful America through the restoration of our forests, parks, coasts, and public lands.

Third, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act would establish a pilot program to provide veterans with access to the Internet and computers to assist in job searches, a key bipartisan provision first introduced by my colleagues across the aisle.

Fourth, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act would especially help rural veterans find employment by granting them greater access to career specialists who can help them write résumés, prepare for interviews, and find jobs. We know all too often the amazing experience and leadership experience they have had overseas fighting for our country does not always translate the terms and the words and the ways described by the résumé into truly explaining what it is to a potential employer. That is why this skill training is so important.

This would also allow eligible veterans and spouses to enroll in the military's innovative Transition Assistance Program at sites outside military installations so they can relocate or return home in pursuit of job opportunities. This is a key benefit in my State of Minnesota, as I noted, which is very rural and also has no military bases.

The fact is, our returning veterans have battle-tested skills that are available to employers in all kinds of fields. This is something companies in my State have recognized. In fact, our business community, small and large, is already leading the way in reaching out to servicemembers before they have even begun the process of transitioning home. In April of this year, when Minnesota's 34th Infantry Division, known as the Red Bulls, was still deployed in Kuwait, representatives from several major companies in Minnesota actually flew into Kuwait to help the soldiers spruce up their résumés and prepare them for job interviews. All across Minnesota, large and small companies are targeting their recruitment efforts on returning servicemembers. This is the type of initiative we need.

In recent months, the unemployment rate for Minnesota veterans who have served since 9/11 has hit nearly 23 percent, almost double the national average for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan war. An unemployment rate that high among the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our Nation is unacceptable, especially when our State's unemployment rate is, in fact, at 5.8 percent.

I truly believe that with initiatives such as those launched by private sector companies in our State, with training programs such as those created by this critical legislation, we are going to turn this situation around. That is why I am calling on all my colleagues to support the Veterans Jobs Corps Act. This important bill, which is fully paid for, goes a long way in providing our returning veterans the leg up they need in transitioning to the civilian workforce.

Minnesota has always been a State that understands the debt we owe to men and women who have served and sacrificed for us. I call on all my colleagues to vote for this bill and to take a step toward fulfilling that debt. This is the least we can do for the people who have fought and died to protect our values, freedoms, democracy, and human rights.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the Veterans Jobs Corps bill, properly written, could be a positive piece of legislation. And I am not speaking about the intent of the bill, whether it can be done effectively, but as ranking Republican on the Budget Committee, I have to point out that this bill violates the budget. It violates the principles of common sense and good management, and it is the typical reason this government is on an unsustainable financial path. It is the typical reason of why we are going broke.

This bill will cost $1 billion over 5 years in spending on a new program. It claims to be offset by new taxes and new revenue sources, but my staff has worked on it and has confirmed there is a 302(f) Budget Act point of order against this Veterans Jobs Corps Act and the managers' amendment, and I am confident that if and when it is raised, the Parliamentarian will agree. There is a budget point of order against this bill because it violates the Veterans Affairs Committee's allocation for budget authority and outlays for what was agreed to in the Budget Control Act.

There was a limit to how much we would spend on the Veterans Affairs Committee. They had a limit on the number of dollars they got. It was part of the August agreement—the Budget Control Act—of a little over a year ago this past August. This is serious. We told the American people we would raise the debt ceiling by about $2.1 trillion but we were going to cut spending. We would immediately raise the debt ceiling and allow $2.1 trillion more in spending, but we promised we would reduce spending over the next 10 years by that same amount. That was the agreement. The President signed it, our Democratic colleagues supported it, and it passed. The debt ceiling was raised, so the government continued to go forward. We were borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spent in the U.S. Government. If we had not raised the amount of money we could borrow in this country, the entirety of government expenditures would have been reduced immediately by 40 percent. So that is how big a hole we are in.

What this new bill does, with good purpose, is it spends $1 billion more than we agreed to spend. So then what occurs? What occurs is, if a person objects to that and raises the budget point of order, the Senate has to waive it openly, publicly, before the American people. We have to say we can't find money within our budget to spend $1 billion more, but we are going to spend it anyway, and every penny of it either has to be borrowed or will be paid for by increased revenues somewhere. So that's what we are going to vote on. I intend to raise the Budget Point of Order.

But it is even worse than that. Some say, ''Well, over 10 years we promise to raise enough money to pay for this, that over the 10-year period we will raise the $1 billion. Don't worry about it. These tax increases and revenue enhancements will pay for it. Count on us.''

I hate to say it, but it is not so. We have in this bill at least one-third the amount of money that would be spent by the jobs corps bill coming from a well-known gimmick, a manipulation of an accounting system around here that allows us to spend more money than we have, and it scores not as an expenditure but as being a proper, valid pay-for. And it is as bogus as a three-dollar bill. I say without danger of contradiction that this is a gimmick. If a private company were to do this and utilize this method to manipulate and mislead stockholders, they would have a lawsuit against the officers of the corporation. They would. It is totally bogus.

Let me explain how this is done. This has been done before. I have offered a bill called the Honest Budget Act. Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE joined me in that, and that would have eliminated a number of misleading gimmicks and fraudulent activities, including this one. Now, to explain, there is a certain corporate tax revenue we get from corporations, and the drafters of this bill cleverly got the idea that they could just accelerate the amount of money from fiscal year 2014 into fiscal year 2013. They would bring that money back into 2013 and collect it just a little bit earlier, and they could then say: We have another $135 million in revenue in 2013, so we can spend that money, and it doesn't cost anything because we have this new money and it is paid for.

So this new Veterans Jobs Corps bill will be partially paid for. About one-third of its total cost will be paid for by collecting corporate revenue taxes sooner. But think about that, if the corporation pays its taxes a few months earlier—it pays it in fiscal year 2013—then it won't owe them in 2014, will it? If they were planning on paying them in 2014, now, they don't have to pay them in 2014. So the hole has moved from 2013 to 2014. We moved the money over here, but we won't have the revenue the next year that we would normally have had. And that is to be done over 5 years.

In the fifth year—which is where our colleagues wanted the number to fall—it shows as if we had a $392 million total increase in revenue. The money, added up each year over 5 years, plus increases, totals $392 million. Isn't that great? We didn't raise taxes. All we did

is call in a little money a little earlier, and we have netted $392 million, right? Wrong. Year 6 is where the revenue doesn't come in, and in year 6 it shows that we will bring into the U.S. Treasury $392 million less because that money was collected early in the previous year—$392 million less in year 6. It never is a net increase to the U.S. Treasury, although it might appear to be, according to the conventions of accounting the CBO uses around here. And CBO knows this is true. They would tell anyone the same thing if they were to ask about this. They know exactly what this system is. But they follow their rules, and in the fifth year it suggests we have a $392 million surplus from this advance collection of corporate taxes, and that is not so.

So, my colleagues, this is a problem for us. We do not need to continue down this pathway. We need to be honest with the American people. The President of the United States should be objecting to this kind of stuff. He should say: No, you can't play that game. The majority leader, Senator REID, should be saying: No, that is a manipulation. The budget chairman, Senator CONRAD, ought to say: No, it violates the Budget Act. This isn't the way to do it.

Now, the alternative bill authored by Senator BURR is an honest piece of legislation and would do much of the same thing; however, it does not violate the Budget Act and is therefore not subject to a budget point of order.

This legislation could have been crafted that way, too. But being as greedy as I guess we are, rather than having to face up to a little bit of the difficulty of finding a couple of hundred million dollars, out of $3.7 trillion we will spend next year, we would rather manipulate it this way.

So what did we mean in August a year ago when we said we were going to cut spending by $2.1 trillion over 10 years? Was that just a joke? Is this the kind of thing we are going to do every time a bill comes along that has some appeal to it and we wish to support? Are we not willing to stand up and pay for the legislation? Is there no waste, fraud, and abuse in this government that we couldn't work on? There certainly is.

This government is mismanaged, it is out of control, and the Chief Executive spends his days getting on an airplane going somewhere to make a speech. What we need is somebody in the shop managing the taxpayers' money. And when Congress tries to play these gimmicks, we need a President that says, No. That is what this country needs. Until we get that, we are never going to bring spending under control.

What do my President and my Democratic colleagues in the Senate say? Send more money. We can't cut anything. We have no ability to find savings. We need more money, American people. Send more to Washington, private sector. It doesn't make a whole lot of difference in an economic sense where it comes from. It is all a further drain out of the private sector, so the public sector can spread the money around and maybe solicit some votes in the process.

This is how we got into this fix. I am concerned about it. I do not think we should go forward with the legislation as drafted. Perhaps some compromise can be reached. Senator BURR has worked hard on it. Maybe our Democratic colleagues can get together and put up a veterans jobs bill that is honestly paid for. I know they could. And if it is worth it and we can find ways to make the tough choices that we are paid to do and set priorities, and help veterans find jobs through some sort of mechanism such as this, then let's do it. But let's pay for it, and let's don't use these gimmicks. Let's don't go about it in a way that misleads the American people about how much the legislation is truly costing.

I feel strongly about it. I am getting frustrated about it. It is always: Well, it is just a few hundred million here and a few hundred million there, and the bill needs to pass, and don't raise these problems now, we are slowing down the machine, we have a lot of things to do. It doesn't look as if we are so busy right now, but people think we have things to do and they don't want to have to wrestle with the minutiae of a few hundred million dollars a year. But we should do that. If we do that every day and if we stay within the budget amount we agreed to last August, we will have made some improvement in the overall debt course of America.

To make clear, the Budget Control Act agreement called for a reduction of $2.1 trillion in spending over 10 years. During that time, we were projected to spend $47 trillion. So the net reduction would be from $47 trillion to $45 trillion. Surely the Republic is not going to sink into the ocean if we reduce our spending from $47 trillion to $45 trillion. Surely we can find that. It is not enough. We need to do about three times that much at a minimum, and we can do that, too. This is still a substantial increase in spending. This is not a cut in spending over 10 years. At the current rate of spending, we spend about $37 trillion. So we are going from $47 trillion to $45 trillion over 10 years instead of $37 trillion over 10 years. It is still a major increase in spending over 10 years, but we are told that is impossible; all we can possibly do is $2.1 trillion in reductions.

The President was claiming credit for reaching this agreement, but the budget he submitted this year wiped out the entire $2.1 trillion. It wiped out the entire sequester and raised taxes by $1.5 trillion in increased spending and about $1.8 trillion in increased taxes; no cuts at all under his budget; actually a spending increase over the trajectory we were already on, which is an unsustainable trajectory.

I know I am being frank about this. Some can say this is a political argument. Well, we are in a political season, and I believe what I have said is accurate. I believe what I have said is true. I believe a budget point of order lies against this bill because it spends more than the Veterans' Affairs is allocated to spend, and we need to vote on it. It is this kind of breaking the budget and spending more than we agreed that has helped put us in this fix, and we need somebody to help bring order out of chaos.

We are on an unsustainable path. This Nation is on the wrong track. We are on the track to decline and debt and financial crisis, not the road to prosperity. We cannot continue in this path.

Erskine Bowles and Senator Simpson before the Budget Committee told us that we have never faced in this country a more predictable debt crisis. That was their joint statement, ''never faced a more predictable financial crisis.'' What they told us was: We are on an unsustainable path. If we stay on this path, we will have some sort of debt crisis, another 2008 or 2007 recession caused by a financial bubble. And for the U.S. Government, what a disaster that would be if, as we are struggling to get people back to work and get the economy on the rise, we have a financial crisis again putting us back into recession. We need to avoid that. We have got to be mature and honest about our money. We have got to get our debt under control.

This bill violates the deemed allocations included in the Budget Control Act. It violates sound principles of financial policy. It contains a major gimmick, really a bogus allocation of over $300 million that claims to exist that does not exist at all. We need to fix that.

Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to share these remarks.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:54 p.m., recessed until 8:46 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MERKLEY).

VETERANS JOBS CORPS ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having expired, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second. There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 192 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Akaka	Feinstein	Moran
Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murray
Barrasso	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Grassley	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Hagan	Portman
Bennet	Harkin	Pryor
Bingaman	Hatch	Reed
Blumenthal	Heller	Reid
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Boxer	Hutchison	Roberts
Brown (MA)	Isakson	Rockefeller
Brown (OH)	Kerry	Sanders
Burr	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Kohl	Shaheen
Cardin	Kyl	Shelby
Carper	Lautenberg	Snowe
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Chambliss	Levin	Tester
Coats	Lieberman	Thune
Cochran	Lugar	Toomey
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Conrad	McCain	Udall (NM)
Coons	McCaskill	Vitter
Corker	McConnell	Warner
Crapo	Menendez	Whitehouse
Durbin	Merkley	Wicker
Enzi	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—8

Blunt	Inhofe	Paul
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
DeMint	Lee	

NOT VOTING—8

Cornyn	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Inouye	Kirk	Webb
Johanns	Landrieu	

The motion was agreed to.

VETERANS JOBS CORPS ACT OF 2012

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3457) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 2789

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator MURRAY, I call up the substitute amendment, No. 2789.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mrs. MURRAY, proposes an amendment numbered 2789.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of Tuesday, September 11, 2012, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2808 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2789

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a first-degree perfecting amendment which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2808 to amendment No. 2789.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:

Sec. _____.

This Act shall become effective 7 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2809 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2808

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2809 to amendment No. 2808.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''7 days'' and insert ''6 days''.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion on the substitute amendment which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the substitute amendment No. 2789 to S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Bill Nelson, Carl Levin, Tom Harkin, Jeff Bingaman, Christopher A. Coons, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Daniel K. Inouye, Benjamin L. Cardin, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Ron Wyden, Robert Menendez, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Barbara Mikulski.

AMENDMENT NO. 2810

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk to the language proposed to be stricken.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2810 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2789.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:

Sec. _____.

This Act shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2811 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2810

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2811 to amendment No. 2810.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''5 days'' and insert ''4 days''.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2812

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit the bill with instructions which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the bill, S. 3457, to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 2812.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:

Sec. _____.

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2813

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2813 to the instructions (Amendment No. 2812) to commit S. 3457.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''3 days'' and insert ''2 days''.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2814 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2813

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2814 to amendment No. 2813.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''2 days'' and insert ''1 day''.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion to the bill, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Bill Nelson, Carl Levin, Tom Harkin, Jeff Bingaman, Christopher A. Coons, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Daniel K. Inouye, Benjamin L. Cardin, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Ron Wyden, Robert Menendez, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Barbara Mikulski.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived on the cloture motion just filed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAMILY AND BUSINESS TAX CUT CERTAINTY ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 3521.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to proceed.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 3521, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, now that the Senate has finally adopted the motion to proceed to the veterans jobs bill, we have brought to a close the 380th filibuster during my time as majority leader—less than 6 years. And just now, to start to bring debate to close on the veterans jobs bill itself, I have had to file the 381st cloture motion during my 5½ years as leader. That is 381 cloture motions filed in just 6 years. Actually, it is less than that.

For comparison, in the 6 years that Lyndon Johnson was majority leader, he had to file one cloture motion. This has become outrageous. The peoples' time is being wasted. We just finished 30 hours of nothing. We are now starting our next 30 hours of nothing, just standing around looking at each other.

Filibusters have increased in recent years, but this is really unbelievable what has happened. The level of Republican obstruction has increased dramatically. It has increased dramatically just in the last few years.

We do not have to fight over everything. A veterans jobs bill, does that deserve a fight? When we were in recess subject to the call of the Chair, an Afghan veteran was brought out here. He is missing one leg. He is 25 years old. He is an Army veteran. He is trying to hang on to his other leg. The pages who are in here, I called them up and introduced them to this young man. I wanted them to see what all of this talk is about, of people who sacrifice for our country. Hopefully this man will be well enough after some more rehabilitation time that he can go out and look for a job. He will have at least one artificial limb.

This is a veterans jobs bill that is being held up for what reason? I do not know—or do I know? The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports there are about 200,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans, approaching a quarter of a million. And as our Nation appropriately winds down our military commitments abroad, we can expect increased numbers of newly separated veterans to enter the workforce.

The veterans jobs bill is a $1 billion investment in our veterans. This bill would increase training and hiring opportunities for veterans. It would help to create jobs for veterans.

I commend Senator NELSON of Florida and the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator MURRAY, for their hard work on this bill. Unfortunately, I have already received word that the Republican Senators are simply unwilling to pass this measure. One Republican Senator, for example, is insisting on a vote on something related to Pakistan.

Another Senator has filed a right-to-work amendment. Yet another Republican Senator has filed the Department of Defense authorization bill as an amendment to this bill. As important as Pakistan and many other issues are, the Senate ought to be able to focus on this young man who was here in the well this evening. We ought to be focusing on creating jobs for veterans.

Now, we all know what is happening over here. The Republican leader, you have to admire him, he stuck to it. His No. 1 goal is to defeat President Obama, and that is why we have not been able to legislate. Everything has been stopped. Everything. We have been able to push through a few things but not many.

As always, I will do everything I can to work with Senators to get consent agreements to provide for consideration of this legislation. Hopefully we can reach such agreement. I do not have much hope, but I am always, I guess, hopeful. But in the meantime, I will do what I need to do to ensure that the Senate can vote on this important measure. I will do what I can to help create jobs for America's veterans. We need to do it for everyone, but could we just not agree on veterans?

I know we are now 30 hours postcloture. We all know the drill. Scores and scores of times—the Presiding Officer is a new Member of this Senate, relatively new. He has served going on two Congresses. But he is an expert at watching this. The Senator from Oregon has watched this, and he understands what is going on, and it is not very good.

So the time will run out on this 30 hours from whenever the vote was turned in. First of all, we just—it is easy to get—especially when I am used to the Ryan math mixed up on numbers a little bit. So let's go back where we were.

We just completed and wasted 30 hours. I had to file cloture now on the underlying bill. I have done that. Now we have to wait 2 days for this to ripen. The 2 days is going to expire on Friday.

Now, we are going to vote on Friday, but it is not going to be at a time convenient to everybody. We are going to come in shortly after midnight tomorrow night, and we are going to vote on this. Then the 30 hours can start running, and then we will vote Saturday generally.

If people cannot work together to help veterans, then we are going to make sure the American public knows what is going on here. So we will not vote tomorrow night, but we will vote—it has to be anytime 2 days from now. We can do that tomorrow night or actually Friday morning early, a little after midnight.

I am sorry I got a little mixed up on 30 hours, 2 days for something to ripen. Then, as I said, I have been very confused because of the Ryan math. It has been difficult for me to accept all of that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3457

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, where to start? I mean, what a charade and what a farce. The majority filibusters their own bills. They fill up the amendment tree. They do not even pretend like they are going to work with the other side. How do they expect to pass legislation if they will not allow any input from the other party? A charade and a farce.

As far as helping that young veteran, our soldiers went to war in Afghanistan to get bin Laden. We finally got bin Laden, and we got him with the help of Dr. Shakil Afridi. I do not hear one peep from the other side, I do not see one bit of concern for the man who helped get bin Laden.

Our soldiers went to Afghanistan. That young man lost a limb. A young man in my town also lost three limbs. They did it to get this horrible mass murderer bin Laden. This happened, and this is why we went to war. We are going to do nothing to support the man who helped us get bin Laden?

We send good money after bad. Billions of dollars have been squandered in Pakistan. Pakistan then tortures the man who helped America get bin Laden. And we do nothing. I have asked for 15 minutes to vote on this

issue—15 minutes. No one is obstructing this for any sort of personal vendetta. I am more than happy to work with the majority. I care deeply about the veterans. I care deeply about housing and helping the veterans who have fought for their country. But this is about whether we as a country and the American taxpayers will be asked to send good money after bad to allies that are not acting like allies.

Today we are reminded that our enemies are relentless, but we are also reminded that our so-called allies are not acting like allies at all. We are saddened by the assassination of Ambassador Stevens and his fellow workers, and we are appalled by the lack of protection for our embassies by our supposed allies. We send billions of taxpayer dollars abroad. And what do we get in return? Disrespect, disdain, and now ultimately violence.

I have two amendments I wish to call up. First, not one penny should be sent to Libya until the assassins are delivered to justice. Not one penny should go to Egypt until they guarantee the safety and protection of our embassies.

Second, not one more penny should go to Pakistan until the doctor who helped us get bin Laden is freed. Is it too much to ask of the Senate? I am more than willing to cooperate. I am more than willing to let those go home who want to go home and campaign. I know it is going to be a tough election for the other side. But the thing is, I am more than willing to let them go home anytime.

I do this because it is important that our allies act like allies. It is important that we have a vote, that this Senate go on record and say: Do you support the American taxpayer? Do you want to help the man who helped us get bin Laden?

I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendments and call up amendment No. 2783 and also another amendment that is at the desk and yet to be numbered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senator from Kentucky says there is no input from the minority, but, in fact, the substitute amendment we are going to vote on in the next day or two which is now pending before us has numerous provisions authored by Senate Republicans.

I respect the interest of the Senator from Kentucky in relation to Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, but every now and then the Senate should be able to focus on a small good thing. To veterans this is a big thing. I like helping them. So I understand my friend's tenacity. But I also understand how the Senate operates.

I just think my friend from Kentucky maybe should have run for Secretary of State rather than the Senate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE HASQUET

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Julie Hasquet, my longtime press secretary and dedicated staff members, whose way with words, quick wit, and sharp pen has served me and the people of Alaska very well for over 9 years. Julie had a tall task working for my then new mayoral administration for the Municipality of Anchorage as we brought down blighted buildings, drove out drug dealers, and culled out the ''cat lady'' in an effort to clean up the city. Julie staged press events all over town with backdrops that included bulldozers, jackhammers, demolition crews and even a wrecking ball painted as a pumpkin to take down a dilapidated gas station one cold Halloween afternoon.

A former television news reporter, Julie expertly guest hosted talk radio shows where she would interview and cajole her own guests, including me, to discuss politics, policy, police, and issues of the day with the ease of a well-seasoned pundit. She used those skills in the mayor's office and in the U.S. Senate to write more than 4,500 press releases, thousands of tweets and texts, and to bring our office into the Facebook age with quips, quotes, and photos to tell the whole story as it was unfolding.

Over the years I have watched with pride as Julie has balanced family life with civic duty, raising two smart, talented, daughters, Shelby and Savannah, participating in many charitable organizations, and volunteering at events while spending time with her many friends.

Julie spends her spare time pursuing every kind of Alaskan activity from triathlons to target practice and scrapbooking to snow-machining. Julie's love of Alaska shines through everything she does and her ability to tell Alaskans their own story, in as few words as possible, is a rare talent indeed.

While Julie may be leaving the wild world of politics now, or so she thinks, I commend her and thank her for each and every one of her well said words and a job extraordinarily well done.

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I wish to express support for women across America who are battling ovarian cancer and their families and friends who stand with them in their fight. It is estimated 22,280 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer this year. Of these women, 15,500 of them will lose the battle against this disease—1,040 of the women who will lose the battle this year live in Florida. To put those numbers in perspective, this year, across America, 3 percent of new cancer diagnoses in women will be ovarian cancer, but ovarian cancer will account for 6 percent of female cancer deaths this year.

September marks National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, which is why I chose now to bring attention to this disease. Ovarian cancer is the ninth most common cancer in women and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths because ovarian cancer is a unique cancer—there are no screening tests or early detection tests available. However, if ovarian cancer is treated before it has spread past the ovary, the 5-year survival rate is 93 percent. Sadly, only 15 percent of ovarian cancer diagnoses happen in this early stage, making the overall 5-year survival a mere 46 percent.

Until a screening test is developed, the best we can do to protect our wives, daughters, sisters, nieces, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends is to bring awareness to the risk factors, signs, and symptoms of ovarian cancer. I urge my colleagues to help educate women about the potential warning signs to help with early diagnosis, which is the best method to save lives.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOYE KELLEY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the career of Joye Kelley who is retiring as the president of the Rogers Board of Education after a lifetime of service and dedication to education.

Joye Kelley has been a fixture of the Rogers School Board for more than 29 years serving 20 of those years as president. During her decades of service, Joye has been a visionary for expansion and growth of a school system challenged to meet the needs of the growing population. During her years on the board, Joye ushered in many improvements to schools including the construction of 14 new schools to accommodate the tremendous growth.

Joye has led the Rogers School District to be one of the best districts in Arkansas establishing the mission that welcomes all students and works to help each student succeed. The result of her vision and leadership is the creation of an award-winning education system that is recognized nationally. Both Rogers High School and Heritage

High School have been named among the top 1,000 high schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report. Both are ranked in the top five schools in Arkansas, and the school district is home to a National Blue Ribbon School.

Joye sets a great example of being a hands-on leader, insisting that the board members tour all 23 school campuses at the beginning of the school year to make sure students are provided with a quality learning environment. Joye's husband, Gene, estimates that she spends up to 1,000 hours each year in service to schools.

Perhaps one of Joye's greatest achievements was her influence on education funding in Arkansas and encouraging the State to make it a priority. Her courage to lead the Rogers School Board to challenge education funding helped pave the path for a better education system in Arkansas for students no matter what school district they are enrolled in or where they live.

I had the privilege of serving with Joye as a member of the school board. Her expertise and vision made a lasting mark that will be enjoyed by the community and students for generations after she no longer presides over school board meetings.

Joye has displayed dedication, perseverance and commitment to education. I appreciate her friendship and am grateful for her years of service and efforts devoted to improving the education of Arkansas students.●

IDAHO HOMETOWN HERO MEDAL

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge the second year of the presentation of the Idaho Hometown Hero Medal and congratulate the 2012 recipients of this esteemed honor.

This award was established by Drs. Fahim and Naeem Rahim, who, in addition to their professional and medical service, have a belief in community service and a desire to give back to the community and our country. After receiving the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, they decided to return to Idaho and start the Idaho Hometown Hero award to recognize and celebrate individuals who embody the spirit of philanthropy while showing remarkable commitment in both their personal and professional lives. Their efforts to recognize those working for the betterment of our communities play an important role in inspiring all of us.

I am honored to be among the 2011 recipients of this medal, and I congratulate the 2012 award recipients and recognize the efforts of the Rahim brothers, the award's committee members, the cosponsors, volunteers, and other organizations supporting this honor. Ten extraordinary individuals are 2012 Hometown Hero award recipients: Don Aslett, a businessman, author, and builder of Pocatello's Museum of Clean; Cpl Phillip Baldwin, a marine veteran of Afghanistan now training for the Paralympics; Jonathan Cree, M.D., a physician and medical educator; Patti Farrell, a women's advocate and founder of the Drive for the Cure; Warren E. Nyer, a nuclear energy expert and last survivor of the Manhattan Project; Jody Olsen, a lifelong athlete and promoter of the Southeastern Idaho Senior Games; Rudolfo M. Pena, a teacher, coach, and advocate for Latino education projects; and Bonnie Stoddard, newspaper writer and expert in the history of Clark County. In addition to these awards, there were two honorary medals awarded posthumously to Steve Appleton, the past chief executive officer of Micron Technology and founder of the Micron Foundation, who is survived by his wife and four children, and SGT Ryan Sharp, an Army veteran of Afghanistan, who passed away in December 2011 from injuries received in Kandahar Province.

Those honored through the 2012 Hometown Hero Medal have demonstrated a commitment to hard work, self-improvement, and community service. It is a great privilege to help recognize their outstanding talent and dedication to fellow Idahoans and Americans. I congratulate and thank all of the award recipients for your efforts to strengthen our communities and commend Fahim and Naeem and all those involved with this effort on the second anniversary of the award.●

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER JOY PINNIGER

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jennifer Joy Pinniger upon her retirement as president and CEO of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, NSSGA. Joy joined the National Stone Association in December 1996, and she has been ''Romancing the Stone'' ever since. To her that means helping decisionmakers, the aggregates workforce, and the public understand the purpose and value of the aggregates, or the stone, sand and gravel industry. She has focused NSSGA's advocacy on those issues with the most potential impact on the industry, always aware that the most effective advocates are those members of NSSGA who work every day to produce the construction materials essential to the built environment.

Joy has reminded me on several occasions that her father's roots are in Oklahoma, although as a Navy officer he moved his family around the world. Prior to joining NSSGA, Joy served very ably as chief of staff to former Senator John Warner and as an aide to Virginia Governor John Dalton before that.

Joy has championed the industry in meetings with administration regulatory agencies, always intent on finding solutions that will not only be positive for the aggregates industry but that are right for America. The Rocks Gallery in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History is an example of an NSSGA-member endowed opportunity for the aggregates story to be told from the vantage point of a world-renowned educational institution—an example of teamwork between innovative members and the NSSGA team quarterbacked by Joy Pinniger.

I have had the pleasure of working with Joy as she led the NSSGA's advocacy for passage of the last two surface transportation authorization bills. Joy realized early on that involvement of the public—those affected by the need to get to and from jobs on a daily basis, to take parents to the doctor, to attend children's soccer games; in reality all of us—was critical to success in moving surface transportation legislation forward. She worked tirelessly facilitating NSSGA member contacts with community leaders and lawmakers to build momentum for this often overlooked national priority. Success came in the form of passage of SAFETEA-LU in 2005 and MAP–21 in 2012.

Joy's advocacy leadership extended well beyond transportation to those regulatory issues affecting the aggregates industry. She continually emphasized the industry's ethics and credibility through NSSGA member company commitments to safety and health resulting in 11 years of record-breaking achievements.

With diplomatic leadership, Joy's policy, management, and motivational strength has helped NSSGA members reinforce message and guide relation bridges to fend off unjustified regulations like tightened standards for ''farm dust,'' and legislation that does not accurately distinguish aggregates operations from others.

Joy Pinniger has led the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association with distinction and integrity. I will miss her steadfast leadership, but congratulate her on her retirement and extend best wishes for whatever she chooses to do next.●

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Northeast Wisconsin Technical College for its 100th anniversary.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, founded in 1912 as the City Vocational Schools in Green Bay and Marinette, has grown exponentially in size and impact over the past century. From its earliest offerings of courses in machine shop, woodworking, bookkeeping, and shorthand to today's workforce development in business management, engineering technologies and web development, it has maintained a commitment to providing students with exceptional hands-on training in traditional, new and emerging sectors.

I am proud to have supported NWTC throughout my time in the Senate, working to secure funding for various educational programs and the N.E.W. Clinic, where patients have access to

much needed, quality medical care while the next generation of health care workers receives exceptional, hands-on training. The N.E.W. Clinic, like NWTC, has become a tremendous asset to the residents of Wisconsin.

Today, NWTC graduates more students than all other Green Bay area colleges combined, preparing tens of thousands of students for careers through its 180 programs of study. For the last 2 years, NWTC has rated in the top 10 percent of community colleges nationally as ranked by the Aspen Institute.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College has built a strong reputation and steadfast foundation that helps support and grow the regional economy. With statistics showing that 95 percent of its 2011 graduates continue to work in Wisconsin and 73 percent remain in the region, NWTC also shapes the local economy. Students, thousands of area businesses, their employees, and the entire region all benefit from NWTC's commitment to building partnerships and alliances that help everyone succeed.

On behalf of our entire Nation, I join the people of Wisconsin in recognizing and commending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College for providing 100 years of outstanding service and quality education to its students. Today, we honor the leaders who founded the college, and all of the faculty, staff, and students who enrich Wisconsin's long, proud tradition of excellence in education.●

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to honor an outstanding nonprofit in Columbia, MD, Enterprise Community Partners, on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary.

In 1982, Jim Rouse and his wife Patty founded Enterprise Community Partners as a neighborhood-based partnership to revitalize communities. They founded Enterprise with the ambitious goal of making sure every American lives in a decent, affordable home. Over the years, this organization has grown to be a leading provider of capital and expertise for affordable housing in thriving communities. Today, Terri Ludwig leads the organization as it continues on the important work of its founders.

Enterprise Community Partners has invested more than $11.5 billion to build and preserve nearly 300,000 affordable rental and for-sale homes and create more than 410,000 jobs nationwide. This includes almost $1.2 billion invested directly in Maryland—building and preserving thousands of homes in the State. Because of Enterprise, over 14,000 individuals and families have a place to call home in Maryland.

As a member of the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, I put money in the federal checkbook to build and protect our communities. Providing safe, affordable and adequate housing has always been one of my top priorities. Safe, sustainable, and affordable housing is essential for community growth and stability. Kids in quality housing do better in schools, neighborhoods have much less crime, and communities are stronger.

In 1992, I worked with Senator Kit Bond to create the HOPE VI program which revolutionized public housing by leveraging public and private resources to replace dangerous and run-down public housing projects with mixed-income communities that integrated schools, businesses and community services alongside public, affordable and market rate housing.

HOPE VI has been successful in transforming communities and transforming the lives of people living in public housing. Enterprise has been an important partner in stabilizing Baltimore's stressed communities and encouraging investment by residents and businesses so that neighborhoods in Baltimore remain places to live, work, shop and worship.

Enterprise stories include families who, due to a reduction in hours at work and layoffs, are at risk of foreclosure; young adults who age out of foster care and face homelessness; and homeless individuals with disabilities. Enterprise develops and preserves affordable housing in communities linking people to opportunities for success.

The Enterprise Green Communities Initiative is the first national framework for green affordable housing. The 5-year, $555 million initiative plans to build more than 8,500 environmentally healthy homes for low-income families. It provides grants, financing, tax credit equity and technical assistance to developers who meet Green Communities Criteria for affordable housing that promotes health, conserves energy and natural resources, and provides easy access to jobs, schools, and services.

Four years ago, Enterprise announced the formation of the Save America's Neighborhoods Campaign, a coalition of national and local organizations concerned about the foreclosure crisis' impacts on communities. The coalition's efforts were important contributors to establishing the Neighborhood Stabilization Program at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which offers grants to help families and communities at risk of foreclosure.

Enterprise should be recognized for its work to sustain and restore thriving communities nationwide. Enterprise tackles some of the toughest problems in our communities and continues to transform both communities and families throughout the country. They invest in neighborhoods that are working together to solve their own problems for the collective good of the community.

I thank the volunteers, staff, board members and foundations supporting Enterprise Community Partners for all of their work, for their commitment to each other, for their commitment to community, and for their commitment to Maryland. And I congratulate you on this milestone.●

RECOGNIZING LACASSE BAT COMPANY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as you are aware, baseball is considered our national pastime. Every spring millions of Americans eagerly await the crack of a wooden bat as baseball and softball season begin. With this in mind, today I rise to recognize and commend the success of LaCasse Bat Company, located in Skowhegan, ME and its owner, Jesse LaCasse.

Mr. LaCasse is a former local baseball standout, playing at Saint Joseph's College of Maine, where he earned a degree in Sports Management. While in college, he was inducted into the Saint Joseph's Athletic Hall of Fame. As a hitting fanatic who was driven by his love of the game, he began manufacturing wooden bats for his personal use in 2006. The custom bats caught on with his summer league teammates, and soon he was making bats for individual players, adding a logo and the player's name to the design.

LaCasse Bat Company, a one-person operation, was founded in 2008 using local Maine materials in production. From cutting the trees to the final product, each step of the development of these bats is meticulously crafted. LaCasse Bat Company uses premium quality wood and makes bats from solid ash, birch, beech, and maple. Mr. LaCasse turns each bat by hand on a wood lathe, a process which takes roughly 15 to 20 minutes, and brands it with his logo. Through this careful method, Mr. LaCasse is able to fine-tune the balance of the bat and make each bat distinctive to the individual player. This personal touch and dedication to craftsmanship contributes to the truly unique nature of each handmade bat.

In 2010, LaCasse Bat Company teamed with Subway Restaurants to handcraft four custom-colored bats to be donated at the 2010 Senior League World Series held in Bangor, ME. These were the first colored bats made by LaCasse Bats and each features the green, yellow, and white colors of the Subway franchises.

Since the exposure of the 2010 Senior World Series, LaCasse has seen a high demand for tailor-made and colored bats. LaCasse Bats takes every aspect of personalization into account, offering customization of handle, barrel, and logo colors and sizes, as well as the specific bat weight and type of wood. LaCasse Bats currently supplies teams from Little League through college in the United States and Europe, with most of its sales coming from Maine. As sales continue to grow, Mr. LaCasse hopes someday one of his bats will make it to the plate in Major League Baseball.

As a small business, LaCasse Bat Company's success in just a few short

years has been exceptional. It is inspiring to know that entrepreneurs such as Mr. LaCasse continue to draw upon their passion, ingenuity, and energy to develop new businesses. I extend my congratulations to Jesse LaCasse for his tremendous effort and offer my best wishes for the continued growth and success for LaCasse Bat Company.●

SERVICES CENTER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the Services Center Federal Credit Union, SCFCU, a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative located in Yankton, Springfield, and Parkston, SD.

Chartered on April 2, 1962, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the SCFCU. As a community charter, membership is open to all who live or work in Bon Homme or Yankton Counties. Building upon their mission of being responsive to their members' needs by providing competitive financial services, their membership has grown to nearly 6,500 Bon Homme and Yankton County residents.

As a credit union member myself, I understand firsthand the benefit of a credit union membership. Credit unions are a part of the community and they are well aware of the specific needs of their members. Their commitment to providing the best possible service is commendable, especially in the financial environment we are faced with today.

The SCFCU commemorated their 50th anniversary during their annual meeting held in Yankton, SD, on June 23, 2012. I would like to offer my congratulations to the leaders and membership of the SCFCU on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LARRY MIZEL

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Coloradan—Larry A. Mizel—on the occasion of his 70th birthday on September 14.

There are few Coloradans who embody the spirit of the Centennial State as well as my friend Larry, and it is a privilege today for me to be able to share my thoughts about him with my Senate colleagues.

Larry is many things to many people, but at root, I think of Larry as an independent thinker; a savvy businessman; a man who cares about the world, his community and his family; and a man whose philanthropic reach is as wide as the Rocky Mountains are tall.

I ask my colleagues to indulge me while I talk a bit about Larry and recount some of his most notable accomplishments. The list is long, but his work stands as a model for others.

Larry always has believed in the value of a good education, and his own educational history is impressive. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1964, and 3 years later, Larry received his law degree from the esteemed University of Denver College of Law.

From there, Larry took off at warp speed.

In 1972, Larry founded the company that became M.D.C. Holdings, Inc., which is one of the Nation's top homebuilders. MDC is the parent corporation to Richmond American Homes and is a New York Stock Exchange-listed company.

Forty years after founding M.D.C., Larry still serves as chairman and chief executive officer of the company. That is an amazing run, with a lot more to come, I hope and predict.

Under Larry's visionary leadership, M.D.C. consistently has maintained one of the strongest financial positions in the industry.

But it is not just profits that distinguish M.D.C. M.D.C. also is known for its high-quality work. For example, M.D.C. has the distinction of being one of the few homebuilding-based companies to receive an investment-grade rating from all three rating agencies.

Larry has never been one to rest on his laurels. In addition to M.D.C., he has pursued other business ventures. Larry was a founder and, until 1996 chairman of the board of Asset Investors Corporation, a New York Stock Exchange-listed real estate investment trust, as well as of Commercial Assets Inc., a real estate investment trust that traded on the American Stock Exchange. In addition, Larry served as chairman of the board of directors of Omnibank, a multi-bank holding company, until its sale to KeyCorp in 1995.

Yet, Larry is known in Colorado for more than these business-world accomplishments, as impressive as they are. Larry stands as a shining example to Coloradans about how to enrich the communities in which we live and to give voice to those who sometimes cannot speak loudly enough for themselves.

Larry has been actively involved in numerous charitable, religious, and community causes, some that reach beyond our borders.

For example, there are few leaders in Colorado who care as deeply as Larry does about issues related to Israel and to Jews around the world. Larry is a member of the national board of directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee better known as AIPAC which works to ensure a strong United States-Israel relationship.

Larry also is one of the founders of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, an international human rights organization, based in Los Angeles, CA. He has served as the International Chairman of the board of trustees of the Wiesenthal Center since 2003. As most of us know, the Wiesenthal Center helps to accomplish goals that Larry holds dear—namely, promoting tolerance and combating racism and anti-Semitism around the world.

It bears noting that the educational arm of the Wiesenthal Center—the Museum of Tolerance—is a recipient of the 2004 Tolerance Award given at the United Nations. It is a world-class human rights laboratory and learning center dedicated to challenging visitors to confront important contemporary issues.

Closer to home, Larry also founded the Mizel Arts and Culture Center—known as the MACC—located in Denver at the Jewish Community Center. The MACC aims to illuminate the human experience through performing, visual, and literary arts for the Jewish community and the community at large.

Larry's interests and expertise in international affairs extend far. For example, he is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an independent organization dedicated to finding solutions to the challenging foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries—choices made all the more challenging after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

Thankfully, Larry has brought his business acumen into the public policy arena. For example, in 1986 Larry founded and served as the inaugural chairman of Colorado Concern, an organization committed to promoting sustainable business growth and advancing the economic well-being of Colorado. I am privileged to work closely with Colorado Concern, especially in these tough economic times, when we are all searching for innovative ways to get our Nation back on sounder economic footing.

Larry also is a founding member of the Denver Rustlers, a group that has given him the opportunity to work with other Colorado business leaders to support community youth. As with Colorado Concern, I have been fortunate to participate in events with the Denver Rustlers. From raising scholarship money, to supporting participants at the Junior Livestock Sale at the annual Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, to opening the Denver Rustlers Kids Cafe in 1994 to combat childhood hunger, Larry has been instrumental in the Denver Rustlers' positive effect on children's lives.

I also want to take a moment to underline another great love of Larry's—another pursuit that fills Coloradans with pride. Larry is the founder of the Mizel Museum in Denver. The Mizel Museum provides regular artistic and educational programs that promote community understanding and tolerance for residents of the Rocky Mountain region. It is a stunning facility that makes a big difference in our state.

As part of the Mizel Museum and its related Mizel Institute, in 2004 Larry founded another crown jewel: the Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab, better known as the CELL. The CELL is a nonprofit institution dedicated to the prevention of terrorism through education. Located in Denver, the

CELL's exhibit was developed in consultation with world-renowned thought leaders and award-winning artists.

As Larry points out, it is the only exhibit of its kind in the world and has evolved into a greater institute for terrorism prevention and preparedness training. Through its acclaimed exhibits, distinguished speakers series, and training programs, the CELL has impacted thousands of individuals and has helped to enhance our public safety. Many Members of this Chamber have visited the CELL and have witnessed firsthand the power of its dynamic programs and interactive exhibits.

In early 2012, I was proud to colead, with Larry and the CELL, a public event that examined our Nation's foreign policy challenges 10 years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It is a testament to Larry that the event was able to attract a broad range of top national security experts, Members of Congress, policymakers, the media, and members of the public.

Over the years, many acclaimed organizations have recognized Larry's work and his philanthropy. I want to name some of the honors that he has received.

In 1987, Larry received the National Humanitarian Award from National Jewish Health, a global leader in the research and treatment of respiratory, immune and related diseases.

In 1996, Larry was named honorary dean of the University of Denver's Burns School of Real Estate and Construction Management.

In 2001, he was one of the recipients of the distinguished Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which gives tribute to the immigrant experience and individual achievement.

In 2002, Larry was awarded the title Honorary Irishman by the Ancient Order of Hiberians, a Catholic-Irish-American Fraternal Organization founded in 1836, for his work supporting the Heroes of 9/11.

In 2005, Larry received the Defenders of Freedom Award from the National Homeland Defense Foundation, an organization that is dedicated to securing freedom in the fields of homeland defense and security.

In 2010, he was awarded the Ben S. Wendelken Special Trustees' Award by Colorado's El Pomar Foundation, for embodying the spirit of service and giving through his life's work.

And in 2011, Larry received the Steve Ross Lifetime Achievement Award from the Milken Institute and was named a Colorado State Patrol Honorary Colonel.

I could go on and on, but I think these examples help illustrate the scope of Larry's work and his life passions and the way that he is valued in our community.

I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the people closest to Larry—his family. He cares deeply for them. Larry and his wife Carol have two grown children and five grandchildren.

Mr. President, I want to close with this observation. There are very few leaders who have brought our community together since September 11, 2001, like Larry has. Larry has rallied Coloradans together literally to remember the heroes and victims of 9/11 and to rise up against the evils of terrorism. It is what he does best: He assembles diverse groups of people, finds their commonality, and marshals them toward a noble purpose. Larry cares greatly about the security of the United States, as well as our allies worldwide. And he will stop at nothing to try to create a world where people do not live under the constant threat of attack, whether by persecutors, terrorists, or other enemies.

Today Colorado thanks a great American—Larry A. Mizel—for a lifetime of good work—and many more years to come. Happy 70th birthday, Larry.●

HONORING FRANK WILLETO

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, in the annals of our Nation's military history, the Navajo Code Talkers will always be remembered. They were a small group of marines, but their impact was far beyond their numbers. Their skills were crucial to American victory in the Pacific during World War II. They turned their Native language into an unbreakable code, and wielded that power as a great force in securing Allied victory.

Today, we mourn the loss of one of those heroic men. On June 23, Mr. Frank Chee Willeto died at his home in Pueblo Pintado, NM. Mr. Willeto was 87 years old. His life was a remarkable story of valor, of dedication, and of service.

Mr. Willeto was born and raised in Crownpoint, NM. In January 1944 he enlisted with the U.S. Marines, 6th Division. He trained for 8 weeks as a Navajo Code Talker. He served in the Pacific Theater in the Saipan and Okinawa campaigns.

Frank Willeto and his fellow Navajo Code Talkers joined a fight for freedom in a world that did not always accord freedom to them. They knew firsthand the ugly face of discrimination, of intolerance. U.S. law had recognized Native Americans as citizens for only 17 years when our country entered World War II.

And yet, many Native Americans bravely served during World War II, served at a higher percentage rate than the general population. And among them were Frank Willeto and the legendary Navajo Code Talkers.

Mr. Willeto was awarded the Congressional Silver Medal. Our Nation is forever in debt to him and his fellow Navajo Code Talkers. But that is only part of his story. When he came home from war, he devoted his life to his community. He worked for many years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then with the Department of Education.

In 1974, he was elected as a Navajo tribal councilman. He was later elected president of Pueblo Pintado Chapter. He also served as a judge on the Navajo Supreme Judicial Council and as vice president of the Navajo Nation.

Last November, Mr. Willeto testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. He shared his experiences in the military, and he reminded us all how important it is that our veterans receive the benefits they were promised. He was a tireless advocate for housing and health benefits for veterans. Frank Willeto lived a long and productive life, and to the end he was steadfast in his efforts to help others.

His was a life of service, of defending others in time of war, and serving others in times of peace. A life that is inspiring to all who knew him, and who mourn him now. We remember Frank Willeto, and we honor his legacy when we hold true to the ideals that he lived: honor, courage, commitment. I extend my sincere sympathies to Mr. Willeto's family, to his many friends, and to his community.●

RECOGNIZING RICK BARTOW

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today a part of the Pacific Northwest is coming to Washington, DC. Thanks to the immensely creative and dedicated work of artist Rick Bartow and his team, two wooden pole sculptures will be placed in the garden of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Atop one pole sits a bear and the other pole a raven, representing the healer and the rascal, respectively. The Bear pole is 27 feet tall, and the Raven pole, 23 feet tall. The poles—collectively titled ''We Were Always Here''—will face the Washington Monument and overlook the National Mall.

The artist behind this project, Rick Bartow, is a Native American of Wiyot and Yurok heritage who was born in Newport, OR. His previous work has been shown throughout the world, including his Cedar Mill Pole, which was displayed at the White House in 1997. When you hear Mr. Bartow discuss his art, his process, and the world around him, you realize that you are listening to one of the country's foremost artistic minds.

That talent is clearly showcased in ''We Were Always Here.'' The level of detail, history, and meaning in each pole is truly amazing. The poles are based on Native beliefs, but the message and meaning behind them are universal. For example, Mr. Bartow explains that the repeated horizontal patterns on each pole, ''symbolize successive waves, generations following generations, an accumulation of wisdom and knowledge.'' This idea that we can learn from our ancestors and from history is critical to the progress of our Nation and is one that is beautifully captured through these sculpture poles.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Mr. Bartow and his team, folks visiting the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian or walking the National Mall will now be able to look

upon these sculptures and gain an understanding of the important role the Native American community has in Oregon and throughout our country.

It is important to note that it is not only Oregon that is represented in these poles, but rather the Pacific Northwest. The two trees from which they are carved—a 1200 and 500 year old cedar—are from our northern neighbors, Washington State, and artists from around the area contributed in the creation of these sculptures. This sense of community is a staple of the Pacific Northwest and one that is represented in ''We Were Always Here''.

I want to commend Mr. Bartow and his team for their great work, and I encourage everyone to get out and experience ''We Were Always Here'' by visiting the American Indian Museum or The National Mall.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 538. An act to require the establishment of customer service standards for Federal agencies.

H.R. 1410. An act to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam.

H.R. 1464. An act to develop a strategy for assisting stateless children from North Korea, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2800. An act to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program.

H.R. 4057. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy to improve outreach and transparency to veterans and members of the Armed Forces through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4264. An act to help ensure the fiscal solvency of the FHA mortgage insurance programs of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4305. An act to authorize the Attorney General to provide a grant to assist Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing individuals.

H.R. 4631. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to institute spending limits and transparency requirements for Federal conference and travel expenditures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6028. An act to authorize the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to modify screening requirements for checked baggage arriving from preclearance airports, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6080. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code.

H.R. 6131. An act to extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6185. An act to improve security at the State and local courthouses.

H.R. 6189, An act to eliminate unnecessry reporting requirements for unfunded programs under the Office of Justice Programs.

H.R. 6215. An act to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to correct an error in the provisions relating to remedies for dilution.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 17. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation—Organization (ICAO).

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 710. An act to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 538. An act to require the establishment of customer service standards for Federal agencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1410. An act to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1464. An act to develop a strategy for assisting stateless children from North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2800. An act to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4057. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy to improve outreach and transparency to veterans and members of the Armed Forces through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4264. An act to help ensure the fiscal solvency of the FHA mortgage insurance programs of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4305. An act to authorize the Attorney General to provide a grant to assist Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing individuals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4631. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to institute spending limits and transparency requirements for Federal conference and travel expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6028. An act to authorize the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to modify screening requirements for checked baggage arriving from preclearance airports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 6080. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6185. An act to improve security at State and local courthouses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6189. An act to eliminate unnecessary reporting requirements for unfunded programs under the Office of Justice Programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6215. An act to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to correct an error in the provisions relating to remedies for dilution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6131. An act to extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–7344. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to eliminating barriers to firms that are not traditional suppliers to the Department of Defense that wish to contract with the Department; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7345. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense's Biennial Report to Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7346. A communication from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7347. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA–2012–0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7348. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA–2012–0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7349. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA–2012–0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7350. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA–2012–0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7351. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Ireland; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7352. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7353. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Saudi Arabia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7354. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to the Federative Republic of Brazil (Brazil); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7355. A communication from the Under Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was originally declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7356. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7357. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe declared in Executive Order 13288; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7358. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Management and Budget's report of the estimated cost of assets purchased under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7359. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Strengthening Risk Management Through Responsible FHA-Approved Lenders'' (RIN2502–AJ13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7360. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, (3) reports relative to vacancies within the Department, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7361. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA–2012–0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7362. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations'' ((44 CFR Part 65) (Docket No. FEMA–2012–0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7363. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Risk-Based Capital Guidelines: Market Risk'' (RIN3064–AD70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7364. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Disclosure of Payments by Resource Extraction Issuers'' (RIN3235–AK85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7365. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Conflict Minerals'' (RIN3235–AK84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7366. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Risk-Based Capital Guidelines: Market Risk'' (RIN1557–AC99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7367. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Dinotefuran; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9359–6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7368. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Polyoxin D zinc salt; Amendment to an Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9360–6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7369. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Confirmation, Portfolio Reconciliation, Portfolio Compression, and Swap Trading Relationship Documentation Requirements for Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants'' (RIN3038–AC96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7370. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Annual Energy Outlook 2012''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7371. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7372. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Impact of the Compacts of Free Association on Guam: Fiscal Year 2004 through Fiscal Year 2011''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7373. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7374. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf—Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf'' (RIN1014–AA02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7375. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Memorandum of Justification relative to Pakistan (OSS–2012–1292); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7376. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Memorandum of Justification relative to Pakistan (OSS–2012–1293); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7377. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12–064, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7378. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12–123, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7379. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12–116, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7380. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12–107, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7381. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12–103, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7382. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12–118, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7383. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12–095, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7384. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12–111, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7385. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12–127, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7386. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period April 1, 2012 through May 31, 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7387. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–091); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7388. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–069); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7389. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–047); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7390. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–122); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7391. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12–111); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7392. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of an item not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7393. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2012–0112—2012–0118); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7394. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended for the six months ending December 31, 2011''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7395. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Jacksonville Harbor Mile Point Navigation Study, Duval County, Florida project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7396. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Ohio River Shoreline, Paducah, Kentucky Reconstruction project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7397. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the San Clemente Shoreline in Orange County, California; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7398. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''NRC Staff Position on Applying Surveillance Requirements 3.0.2 and 3.0.3 to Administrative Controls Program Tests'' (RIS 2012–10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 30, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7399. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Requirements for Maintenance of Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria'' (RIN3150–AI77) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 30, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7400. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Compliance with Order EA–12–050, Reliable Hardened Containment Vents'' (JLD–ISG–2012–02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7401. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Compliance with Order EA–12–049, Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events'' (JLD–ISG–2012–01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7402. A communication from the Chief of the Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the Chupadera Springsnail and Designation of Critical Habitat'' (RIN1018–AV86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7403. A communication from the Chief of the Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Ipomopsis polyantha (Pagosa skyrocket), Penstemon debilis (Parachute beardtongue), and Phacelia submutica (DeBeque phacelia)'' (RIN1018–AX75) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7404. A communication from the Chief of the Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for 23 Species on Oahu and Designation of Critical Habitat for 124 Species'' (RIN1018–AV49) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7405. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Wildlife Refuge System, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2012–2013 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations'' (RIN1018–AY37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7406. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Attainment Plan for the Philadelphia-Wilmington, Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Delaware 1997 Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9719–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August

23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7407. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Volatile Organic Compounds; Architectural and Industrial Maintenance Coatings'' (FRL No. 9720–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7408. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designations of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Tennessee: Bristol; Determination of Attaining Data for the 2008 Lead Standards'' (FRL No. 9720–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7409. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Diego County, Antelope Valley and Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Agencies'' (FRL No. 9718–1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7410. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 9714–1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7411. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2012 Technical Corrections, Clarifying and Other Amendments to the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule, and Confidentiality Determinations for Certain Data Elements of the Fluorinated Gas Source Category'' (FRL No. 9714–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7412. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Preconstruction Requirements—Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review; Correction'' (FRL No. 9723–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7413. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Washington; Determination of Clean Data for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Standard for the Tacoma, Pierce County Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9723–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7414. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)'' (FRL No. 9711–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7415. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions of Five California Clean Air Act Title V Operating Permits Programs'' (FRL No. 9724–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7416. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standards of Performance for Petroleum Refineries; Standards of Performance for Petroleum Refineries for Which Construction, Reconstruction, or Modification Commenced After May 14, 2007'' (FRL No. 9672–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7417. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): Revisions to Manifesting Regulations'' (FRL No. 9703–1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7418. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Nonconformance Penalties for Onhighway Heavy-Duty Diesel Engines'' (FRL No. 9716–5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7419. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Section 110(a) (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9725–3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7420. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Section 110(a) (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9725–1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7421. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ocean Dumping; Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites Offshore of Yaquina Bay, Oregon'' (FRL No. 9724–7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7422. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; Determinations of Attainment for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 9726–6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7423. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revisions to the State Implementation Plan Approved by EPA through Letter Notice Actions'' (FRL No. 9724–8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7424. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Maximum Allowable Emission of Particulate Matter from Fuel Burning Equipment Used for Indirect Heating'' (FRL No. 9726–2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7425. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Amendments to West Virginia's Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9725–4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7426. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; PSD and NSR Regulations'' (FRL No. 9725–6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7427. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from the Pulp and Paper Industry'' (FRL No. 9684–7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7428. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''25-Year Average Segment Rates and Adjusted 24-Month Average Segment Rates Used for Pension Funding'' (Notice 2012–55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7429. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Applicable Federal Rates'' (Notice 2012–24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the

President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7430. A communication from the Program Manager, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Health Information Technology: Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology, 2014 Edition; Revisions to the Permanent Certification Program for Health Information Technology'' (RIN0991–AB82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7431. A communication from the Program Manager, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Privacy Act, Exempt Record System'' (Docket No. FDA–2011–N–0252) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7432. A communication from the Program Manager, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Privacy Act; Implementation'' (Docket No. NIH–2011–0001) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7433. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Administrative Simplification: Adoption of a Standard for a Unique Health Plan Identifier; Addition to the National Provider Identifier Requirements; and a Change to the Compliance Date for the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD–10–CM and ICD–10–PCS) Medical Data Code Sets'' (RIN0938–AQ13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Health , Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7434. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7435. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Priority; Technical Assistance on State Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting-National IDEA Technical Assistance Center on Early Childhood Longitudinal Data Systems'' (CFDA No. 84.373Z) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7436. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Priorities and Definitions; State Personnel Development Grants'' (CFDA No. 84.323A) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7437. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding Between the Food and Drug Administration and Other Departments, Agencies, and Organizations'' (Docket No. FDA–2012–N–0205) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7438. A communication from the Director of Regulations and ¶Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Animal Drugs, Feeds, and Related Products; Regulation of Carcinogenic Compounds in Food-Producing Animals'' (Docket No. FDA–2010–N–0612) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7439. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Vitamin D2 Bakers Yeast'' (Docket No. FDA–2009–F–0570) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7440. A communication from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office of Inspector General's budget request for the fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 46. A bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112–210).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 3530. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a process to determine whether individuals claiming certain service in the Philippines during World War II are eligible for certain benefits despite not being on the Missouri List, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3531. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase, expand, and extend the credit for hydrogen-related alternative fuel vehicle refueling property and to increase the investment credit for more efficient fuel cells; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3532. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of church pension plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 3533. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to extend the solvency of the Social Security Trust Funds by increasing the normal and early retirement ages under the Social Security program and modifying the cost-of-living adjustments in benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. 3534. A bill to amend the statue of limitations for civil actions regarding terrorist acts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 3535. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a pilot program to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the purpose of retrofitting nonprofit buildings with energy-efficiency improvements; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HELLER, Mr. WEBB, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3536. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit for hiring veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 551. A resolution commending the 4 American public servants who died in Benghazi, Libya, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, for their tireless efforts on behalf of the American people and condemning the violent attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Res. 552. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2012 as ''National Principals Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 553. A resolution designating September 22, 2012, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'' to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 202

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 202, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States before the end of 2012, and for other purposes.

S. 426

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 426, a bill to strengthen student achievement and graduation rates and prepare young people for college, careers, and citizenship through innovative partnerships that meet the comprehensive needs of children and youth.

S. 563

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 563, a bill to provide for equal access to COBRA continuation coverage.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to ensure that the courts of the United States may provide an impartial forum for claims brought by United States citizens and others against any railroad organized as a separate legal entity, arising from the deportation of United States citizens and others to Nazi concentration camps on trains owned or operated by such railroad, and by the heirs and survivors of such persons.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to allow a State to combine certain funds and enter into a performance agreement with the Secretary of Education to improve the academic achievement of students.

S. 1438

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1438, a bill to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 7.7 percent.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1910

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1910, a bill to provide benefits to domestic partners of Federal employees.

S. 2283

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2283, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include procedures for requests from Indian tribes for a major disaster or emergency declaration, and for other purposes.

S. 2371

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2371, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees.

S. 2885

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2885, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of the Purple Heart to members of the Armed Forces who are killed or wounded in a terrorist attack perpetrated within the United States.

S. 3049

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3049, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to expand the definition of homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3269

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3269, a bill to provide that no United States assistance may be provided to Pakistan until Dr. Shakil Afridi is freed.

S. 3391

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3391, a bill to amend section 353 of the Public Health Service Act with respect to suspension, revocation, and limitation of laboratory certification.

S. 3397

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3397, a bill to prohibit waivers relating to compliance with the work requirements for the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes.

S. 3405

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3405, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to treat small businesses bequeathed to spouses and dependents by members of the Armed Forces killed in line of duty as small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans for purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs contracting goals and preferences, and for other purposes.

S. 3459

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3459, a bill to amend the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 to improve the high-end computing research and development program of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

S. 3520

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3520, a bill to require a portion of closing costs to be paid by the enterprises with respect to certain refinanced mortgage loans, and for other purposes.

S. 3522

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3522, a bill to provide for the expansion of affordable refinancing of mortgages held by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

S. 3525

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3525, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 44

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the names of the Senator from Michigan

(Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 44, a joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.

S.J. RES. 48

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 48, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to the health insurance premium tax credit.

S.J. RES. 50

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 50, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Family Assistance of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to waiver and expenditure authority under section 1115 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315) with respect to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

S. RES. 401

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 401, a resolution expressing appreciation for Foreign Service and Civil Service professionals who represent the United States around the globe.

S. RES. 448

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 448, a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

AMENDMENT NO. 2785

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2785 intended to be proposed to S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2786

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2786 intended to be proposed to S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2789

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2789 proposed to S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3532. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of church pension plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this statement be included in the RECORD upon introduction of my legislation, the Church Plan Clarification Act of 2012, with Senator CARDIN.

Today, my colleague Senator CARDIN and I are reintroducing this legislation, which refines the language included in our previous bill, S. 143.

Our goal is to resolve an unfortunate application of our current pension rules on church pension beneficiaries, and protect the retirement security of ministers and church lay workers.

Church pensions are critically important compensation plans that help support over one million clergy members across the country in their retirement—particularly those who dedicated their careers to serving in economically disadvantaged congregations.

Some of these plans date back to the 18th Century, and they are designed to ensure that our pastors and lay staff, who are often paid lower salaries, have adequate resources during their retirement years.

Today, denominational church plans provide benefits to an estimated one million-plus ministers, church workers, and their dependents, most of them working for small churches throughout the nation.

Church plans developed structures and mechanisms that reflect the differing church polities they serve and their unique status has been recognized in law.

However, recent IRS regulations governing 403(b) pension programs and legislative changes have resulted in uncertainty and compliance issues for church pension plans. In response, Senator CARDIN and I sent a letter to the Internal Revenue Service informing them of our legislation, nothing that the unintended consequences of their regulations may negatively affect church ministers and church lay workers.

I hope we can work to provide clarity for these distinctive plans and resolve this issue before the end of the year.

This unequal treatment is simply unfair, and it is time we correct it.

I ask my colleagues to join Senator CARDIN and me today in establishing parity for the beneficiaries of church pensions by supporting this necessary, long overdue fix to the Internal Revenue Code.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3532

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Church Plan Clarification Act of 2012''.

SEC. 2. CHURCH PLAN CLARIFICATION.

(a) APPLICATION OF CONTROLLED GROUP RULES TO CHURCH PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 414(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking ''For purposes'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes'', and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) CHURCH PLANS.—

''(A) GENERAL RULE.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), for purposes of this subsection and subsection (m), an organization that is otherwise eligible to participate in a church plan as defined in subsection (e) shall not be aggregated with another such organization and treated as a single employer with such other organization unless—

''(i) one such organization provides directly or indirectly at least 80 percent of the operating funds for the other organization during the preceding tax year of the recipient organization, and

''(ii) there is a degree of common management or supervision between the organizations.

For purposes of this subparagraph, a degree of common management or supervision exists only if the organization providing the operating funds is directly involved in the day-to-day operations of the other organization.

''(B) NONQUALIFIED CHURCH-CONTROLLED ORGANIZATIONS.—Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A), for purposes of this subsection and subsection (m), an organization that is a nonqualified church-controlled organization shall be aggregated with one or more other nonqualified church-controlled organizations, or with an organization that is not exempt from tax under section 501, and treated as a single employer with such other organizations, if at least 80 percent of the directors or trustees of such organizations are either representatives of, or directly or indirectly controlled by, the first organization. For purposes of this subparagraph, a 'nonqualified church controlled organization' shall mean a church-controlled organization described in section 501(c)(3) that is not a qualified church-controlled organization described in section 3121(w)(3)(B).

''(C) PERMISSIVE AGGREGATION AMONG CHURCH-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS.—Organizations described in subparagraph (A) may elect to be treated as under common control for purposes of this subsection. Such election shall be made by the church or convention or association of churches with which such organizations are associated within the meaning of subsection (e)(3)(D), or by an organization determined by such church or convention or association of churches to be the appropriate organization for making such election.

''(D) PERMISSIVE DISAGGREGATION OF CHURCH-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), in the case of a church plan (as defined in subsection (e)),

any employer may permissively disaggregate those entities that are not churches (as defined in section 403(b)(12)(B)) separately from those entities that are churches, even if such entities maintain separate church plans.

''(E) ANTI-ABUSE RULE.—For purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), the anti-abuse rule in Treasury Regulation section 1.414(c)–5(f) shall apply.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICATION OF CONTRIBUTION AND FUNDING LIMITATIONS TO 403(b) GRANDFATHERED DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(e)(5) of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (Public Law 97–248), is amended—

(A) by striking ''403(b)(2)'' and inserting ''403(b)'', and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', and shall be subject to the applicable limitations of section 415(b) of such Code as if it were a defined benefit plan under section 401(a) of such Code and not the limitations of section 415(c) of such Code (relating to limitation for defined contribution plans).''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply as if included in the enactment of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982.

(c) AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT BY CHURCH PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This subsection shall supersede any law of a State which would directly or indirectly prohibit or restrict the inclusion in any church plan (as defined in this subsection) of an automatic contribution arrangement.

(2) DEFINITION OF AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENT.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ''automatic contribution arrangement'' means an arrangement—

(A) under which a participant may elect to have the plan sponsor make payments as contributions under the plan on behalf of the participant, or to the participant directly in cash, and

(B) under which a participant is treated as having elected to have the plan sponsor make such contributions in an amount equal to a uniform percentage of compensation provided under the plan until the participant specifically elects not to have such contributions made (or specifically elects to have such contributions made at a different percentage).

(3) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The plan administrator of an automatic contribution arrangement shall, within a reasonable period before such plan year, provide to each participant to whom the arrangement applies for such plan year notice of the participant's rights and obligations under the arrangement which—

(i) is sufficiently accurate and comprehensive to apprise the participant of such rights and obligations, and

(ii) is written in a manner calculated to be understood by the average participant to whom the arrangement applies.

(B) ELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—A notice shall not be treated as meeting the requirements of subparagraph (A) with respect to a participant unless—

(i) the notice includes an explanation of the participant's right under the arrangement not to have elective contributions made on the participant's behalf (or to elect to have such contributions made at a different percentage),

(ii) the participant has a reasonable period of time, after receipt of the notice described in clause (i) and before the first elective contribution is made, to make such election, and

(iii) the notice explains how contributions made under the arrangement will be invested in the absence of any investment election by the participant.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) ALLOW CERTAIN PLAN TRANSFERS AND MERGERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(z) CERTAIN PLAN TRANSFERS AND MERGERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Under rules prescribed by the Secretary, except as provided in paragraph (2), no amount shall be includible in gross income by reason of—

''(A) a transfer of all or a portion of the account balance of a participant or beneficiary, whether or not vested, from a plan described in section 401(a) or an annuity contract described in section 403(b), which is a church plan described in subsection (e) to an annuity contract described in section 403(b), if such plan and annuity contract are both maintained by the same church or convention or association of churches,

''(B) a transfer of all or a portion of the account balance of a participant or beneficiary, whether or not vested, from an annuity contract described in section 403(b) to a plan described in section 401(a) or an annuity contract described in section 403(b), which is a church plan described in subsection (e), if such plan and annuity contract are both maintained by the same church or convention or association of churches, or

''(C) a merger of a plan described in section 401(a), or an annuity contract described in section 403(b), which is a church plan described in subsection (e) with an annuity contract described in section 403(b), if such plan and annuity contract are both maintained by the same church or convention or association of churches.

''(2) LIMITATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a transfer or merger unless the participant's or beneficiary's benefit immediately after the transfer or merger is equal to or greater than the participant's or beneficiary's benefit immediately before the transfer or merger.

''(3) QUALIFICATION.—A plan or annuity contract shall not fail to be considered to be described in sections 401(a) or 403(b) merely because such plan or account engages in a transfer or merger described in this subsection.

''(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

''(A) CHURCH.—The term 'church' includes an organization described in subparagraph (A) or (B)(ii) of subsection (e)(3).

''(B) ANNUITY CONTRACT.—The term 'annuity contract' includes a custodial account described in section 403(b)(7) and a retirement income account described in section 403(b)(9).''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to transfers or mergers occurring after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) INVESTMENTS BY CHURCH PLANS IN COLLECTIVE TRUSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of—

(A) a church plan (as defined in section 414(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), including a plan described in section 401(a) of such Code and a retirement income account described in section 403(b)(9) of such Code, and

(B) an organization described in section 414(e)(3)(A) of such Code the principal purpose or function of which is the administration of such a plan or account,

the assets of such plan, account, or organization (including any assets otherwise permitted to be commingled for investment purposes with the assets of such a plan, account, or organization) may be invested in a group trust otherwise described in Internal Revenue Service Revenue Ruling 81–100 (as modified by Internal Revenue Service Revenue Rulings 2004–67 and 2011–1), or any subsequent revenue ruling that supersedes or modifies such revenue ruling, without adversely affecting the tax status of the group trust, such plan, account, or organization, or any other plan or trust that invests in the group trust.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply to investments made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 551—COMMENDING THE 4 AMERICAN PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO DIED IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR J. CHRISTOPHER STEVENS, FOR THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONDEMNING THE VIOLENT ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitting the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 551

Whereas on September 11, 2012, 4 American public servants, including United States Ambassador to Libya, John Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, were killed in a reprehensible and vicious attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens—

(1) was a courageous and exemplary representative of the United States;

(2) had spent 21 years in the Foreign Service;

(3) was deeply passionate about representing the United States through his diplomatic service; and

(4) was an ardent friend of the Libyan people;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens served as Special Envoy to the Libyan Transitional National Council in Benghazi during the 2011 Libyan revolution;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens was a dear friend of the Senate, having served on the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate in 2006 and 2007 as a distinguished Pearson Fellow;

Whereas Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith—

(1) was a husband and a father of 2 children;

(2) joined the Department of State 10 years ago; and

(3) had served in the Foreign Service, before arriving in Benghazi, in Baghdad, Pretoria, Montreal, and The Hague;

Whereas the 2 other individuals from Ambassador Stevens' team who perished in the attack made great sacrifices and showed bravery in taking on a difficult post in Libya;

Whereas the violence in Benghazi coincided with an attack on the United States Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, which was also swarmed by an angry mob of protesters on September 11, 2012;

Whereas on a daily basis, United States diplomats, military personnel, and other public servants risk their lives to serve the American people; and

Whereas throughout this Nation's history, thousands of Americans have sacrificed their lives for the ideals of freedom, democracy, and partnership with nations and people around the globe.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the dedicated service and deep commitment of the 4 American public servants, including Ambassador John Christopher Stevens and Sean Smith, in assisting the Libyan people as they navigate the complex currents of democratic transition marked in this case by profound instability;

(2) praises Ambassador Stevens, who represented the highest tradition of American public service, for his extraordinary record of dedication to the United States' interests in some of the most difficult and dangerous posts around the globe;

(3) sends its deepest condolences to the families of those American public servants killed in Benghazi;

(4) commends the bravery of Foreign Service Officers, United States Armed Forces, and public servants serving in harm's way around the globe and recognizes the deep sacrifices made by their families; and

(5) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the despicable attacks on American diplomats and public servants in Benghazi and calls for the perpetrators of such attacks to be brought to justice.

SENATE RESOLUTION 552—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2012 AS ''NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH''

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 552

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2012 to be ''National Principals Month'';

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2012 as ''National Principals Month''; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of the United States by supporting the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 22, 2012, AS ''NATIONAL FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY'' TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE THE PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

Mr. KOHL (for himself, Ms MIKULSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 553

Whereas older adults, 65 years of age and older, are the fastest-growing segment of the population in the United States, and the number of older adults in the United States will increase from 35,000,000 in 2000 to 72,100,000 in 2030;

Whereas 1 out of 3 older adults in the United States falls each year;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of injury, death, and hospital admissions for traumatic injuries among older adults;

Whereas, in 2010, approximately 2,300,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries, and more than 650,000 were subsequently hospitalized;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2008, more than 20,000 older adults died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the total cost of fall-related injuries for older adults is $80,900,000,000, including more than $28,300,000,000 in direct medical costs;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the annual cost under the Medicare program will reach $59,600,000,000 by 2020; and

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls and facilitating cost-effective interventions, such as comprehensive clinical assessments, exercise programs to improve balance and health, management of medications, correction of vision, and reduction of home hazards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 22, 2012, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'';

(2) commends the Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coalitions in 43 States and the District of Columbia for their efforts to work together to increase education and awareness about the prevention of falls among older adults;

(3) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal, State, and local governments, the public health community, and health care providers to work together to promote the awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults in the United States;

(4) urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue developing and evaluating strategies to prevent falls among older adults that will translate into effective fall prevention interventions, including community-based programs;

(5) encourages State health departments, which provide significant leadership in reducing injuries and injury-related health care costs by collaborating with colleagues and a variety of organizations and individuals, to reduce falls among older adults; and

(6) recognizes proven, cost-effective falls prevention programs and policies and encourages experts in the field to share their best practices so that their success can be replicated by others.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2790. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2791. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2792. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2793. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2794. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2795. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2796. Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2797. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2798. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2799. Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. KERRY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2800. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2801. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2802. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2803. Mr. BROWN, of Ohio submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2804. Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2805. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2806. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2807. Mr. BROWN, of Ohio (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2808. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2789 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2809. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2808 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2789 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2810. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2811. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2810 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2812. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2813. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2812 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2814. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2813 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2812 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2815. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2816. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2790. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ___. VICTORY FOR VETERANS STAMP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 39, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 414 the following:

"§ 414a. Victory for Veterans stamp

''(a) In order to provide members of the public an opportunity to honor their veterans by supporting veterans' employment programs, to reduce the deficit, and to preserve the vital role of the United States Postal Service, the Postal Service shall issue a special stamp (referred to in this section as the 'Victory for Veterans Stamp') in accordance with the provisions of this section.

''(b) The Victory for Veterans Stamp—

''(1) shall not be valid for purposes of postage; and

''(2) shall be offered at a cost equal to 25 cents.

''(c)(1) The amounts becoming available from the sale of the Victory for Veterans Stamp shall be used as follows:

''(A) One-third of such amounts shall be transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of funding vocational rehabilitation programs for veterans under chapter 31 of title 38.

''(B) One-third of such amounts shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury for purposes of deficit reduction.

''(C) One-third of such amounts shall be used by the Postal Service to satisfy obligations incurred under section 2005.

''(2) Amounts transferred under this subsection to an agency under paragraph (1)(A) or (1)(B) shall be made under such arrangements as the Postal Service shall by mutual agreement with such agency establish in order to carry out the purposes of this section.

''(3) For purposes of this section, the term 'amounts becoming available from the sale of the Victory for Veterans Stamp' means—

''(A) the total amounts received by the Postal Service that it would not have received but for the enactment of this section, reduced by

''(B) an amount sufficient to cover reasonable costs incurred by the Postal Service in carrying out this section, including those attributable to the printing, sale, and distribution of the Victory for Veterans Stamp under this section, as determined by the Postal Service under regulations that it shall prescribe.

''(d) Amounts transferred under subsection (c)(1)(A) to the Department of Veterans Affairs shall not be taken into account in any decision relating to the level of appropriations or other Federal funding to be furnished in any year to the Department.

''(e) The Victory for Veterans Stamp shall be made available to the public beginning on such date as the Postal Service shall by regulation prescribe, but in no event later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section.

''(f) The Postmaster General shall include in each report rendered under section 2402 information concerning the operation of this section.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for title 39, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 414 the following:

''414a. Victory for Veterans stamp.''.

SA 2791. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. _____. VETERANS EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of subchapter II the following new section:

"§ 3697B. Veterans education outreach program

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide funding for offices of veterans affairs at institutions of higher learning, as defined in section 3452(f), in accordance with this section.

''(b) PAYMENTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.—(1)(A) The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, make payments to any institution of higher learning, under and in accordance with this section, during any fiscal year if the number of persons eligible for services from offices assisted under this section at the institution is at least 50, determined in the same manner as the number of eligible veterans or eligible persons is determined under section 3684(c) of this title.

''(B) The persons who are eligible for services from the offices assisted under this section are persons receiving educational assistance administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including assistance provided under chapter 1606 of title 10.

''(2) To be eligible for a payment under this section, an institution of higher learning or a consortium of institutions of higher learning, as described in paragraph (3), shall submit an application to the Secretary. The application shall—

''(A) set forth such policies, assurances, and procedures that will ensure that—

''(i) the funds received by the institution, or each institution in a consortium of institutions described in paragraph (3), under this section will be used solely to carry out this section;

''(ii) for enhancing the functions of its veterans education outreach program, the applicant will expend, during the academic year for which a payment is sought, an amount equal to at least the amount of the award under this section from sources other than this or any other Federal program; and

''(iii) the applicant will submit to the Secretary such reports as the Secretary may require or as are required by this section;

''(B) contain such other statement of policies, assurances, and procedures as the Secretary may require in order to protect the financial interests of the United States;

''(C) set forth such plans, policies, assurances, and procedures as will ensure that the applicant will maintain an office of veterans' affairs which has responsibility for—

''(i) veterans' certification, outreach, recruitment, and special education programs, including the provision of or referral to educational, vocational, and personal counseling for veterans; and

''(ii) providing information regarding other services provided veterans by the Department, including the readjustment counseling program authorized under section 1712A of this title and the programs carried out under chapters 41 and 42 of this title; and

''(D) be submitted at such time or times, in such manner, in such form, and contain such information as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the functions of the Secretary under this section.

''(3) An institution of higher learning which is eligible for funding under this section and which the Secretary determines cannot feasibly carry out, by itself, any or all of the activities set forth in paragraph (2)(C), may carry out such program or programs through a consortium agreement with one or more other institutions of higher learning in the same community.

''(4) The Secretary shall not approve an application under this subsection unless the Secretary determines that the applicant will implement the requirements of paragraph (2)(C) within the first academic year during which it receives a payment under this section.

''(c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—(1)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the amount of the payment which any institution shall receive under this section for any fiscal year shall be

$100 for each person who is described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

''(B) The maximum amount of payments to any institution of higher learning, or any branch thereof which is located in a community which is different from that in which the parent institution thereof is located, in any fiscal year is $150,000.

''(2)(A) The Secretary shall pay to each institution of higher learning which has had an application approved under subsection (b) the amount which it is to receive under this section. If the amount appropriated for any fiscal year is not sufficient to pay the amounts which all such institutions are to receive, the Secretary shall ratably reduce such payments. If any amount becomes available to carry out this section for a fiscal year after such reductions have been imposed, such reduced payments shall be increased on the same basis as they were reduced.

''(B) In making payments under this section for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall apportion the appropriation for making such payments, from funds which become available as a result of the limitation on payments set forth in paragraph (1)(B), in an equitable manner.

''(d) COORDINATION AND PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE, TECHNICAL CONSULTATION, AND INFORMATION.—The Secretary, in carrying out the provisions of this section, shall seek to assure the coordination of programs assisted under this section with other programs carried out by the Department pursuant to this title, and the Secretary shall provide all assistance, technical consultation, and information otherwise authorized by law as necessary to promote the maximum effectiveness of the activities and programs assisted under this section.

''(e) BEST PRACTICES AND ADMINISTRATION.—(1) From the amounts made available for any fiscal year under subsection (f), the Secretary shall retain one percent or $20,000, whichever is less, for the purpose of collecting information about exemplary veterans educational outreach programs and disseminating that information to other institutions of higher learning having such programs on their campuses. Such collection and dissemination shall be done on an annual basis.

''(2) From the amounts made available under subsection (f), the Secretary may retain not more than two percent for the purpose of administering this section.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $6,000,000 for fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3697A the following new item:

''3697B. Veterans education outreach program.''.

SA 2792. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. _____. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR PROGRAM TO SECURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED VETERAN.—In this subsection, the term ''covered veteran'' means a veteran with traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Labor, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy.

(3) VETERAN.—The term ''veteran'' means a veteran, as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall carry out a program through which the Secretary shall—

(1) provide technical assistance to prospective employers and employers of covered veterans, to enable the prospective employers and employers to employ and retain covered veterans;

(2) provide technical assistance for entities in the workforce development system, to enable the entities to help covered veterans obtain employment and succeed in that employment;

(3) receive referrals for technical assistance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) from reserve components described in section 101 of title 10, United States Code, business organizations, and Federal agencies; and

(4) conduct outreach concerning such technical assistance through regional offices of the Department of Labor.

(c) INFORMATION ON BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall disseminate information on best practices related to assisting covered veterans in obtaining employment and developing strategies to succeed in that employment. The Secretary shall disseminate the information to business organizations and employers (including veteran-owned businesses), human resource organizations, government agencies, and Federal contractors.

(d) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP.—The Secretary shall establish a working group, consisting of representatives of Federal agencies with programs that assist covered veterans in obtaining or maintaining employment.

(2) DUTIES OF WORKING GROUP.—The working group shall share information on best practices, share resources, and develop a plan, for providing such assistance to the covered veterans. The working group shall submit the plan to the heads of the Federal agencies.

(3) FUNCTIONS OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each head of a Federal agency receiving the plan shall consider the plan and make appropriate changes to carry out functions that assist covered veterans in obtaining and maintaining employment.

SA 2793. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. _____. IMPROVEMENTS TO PLANS FOR VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FOR REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY.

Section 1710C(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (5) through (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraphs:

''(3) With respect to individuals who are veterans described in subsection (b) of section 3120 of this title, participation in programs of independent living services provided under subsection (a) of such section.

''(4) Employment support services provided under section 1718(d)(2) of this title.''.

SA 2794. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DISPOSAL OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

The Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs establishing procedures under which a veteran may deliver a controlled substance to an employee of the Veterans Health Administration to be disposed of in accordance with section 302(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(g)).

SA 2795. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.—

(1) RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES.—Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 157) is amended by striking ''except to'' and all that follows through ''authorized in section 8(a)(3)''.

(2) UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES.—Section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking '': *Provided*, That'' and all that follows through ''retaining membership'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or to discriminate'' and all that follows through ''retaining membership''; and

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking ''covered by an agreement authorized under subsection (a)(3) of this section''; and

(C) in subsection (f), by striking clause (2) and redesignating clauses (3) and (4) as clauses (2) and (3), respectively.

(b) AMENDMENT TO THE RAILWAY LABOR ACT.—Section 2 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 152) is amended by striking paragraph Eleven.

SA 2796. Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. _____. EXCLUSION OF MEDICAL DEVICES SOLD UNDER THE TRICARE FOR LIFE PROGRAM OR VETERAN'S HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS FROM TAX ON SUCH DEVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 4191 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) EXCLUSION OF MEDICAL DEVICES SOLD UNDER THE TRICARE FOR LIFE PROGRAM OR VETERAN'S HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS.—Such term shall not include any device which is sold to individuals covered under the TRICARE for Life program or the veteran's health care program under chapter 17 of title

38, United States Code, any portion of the cost of which is paid or reimbursed under either such program.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to sales after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2797. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. ____. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACTIONS ON INELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN PROPRIETARY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3681 the following new section:

''§ 3681A. Ineligibility of certain proprietary institutions of higher education for participation in Department of Veterans Affairs programs of educational assistance

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of a notice from the Secretary of Education under clause (iii) of section 487(d)(2)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(d)(2)(A)) that a proprietary institution of higher education is ineligible for participation in or receipt of funds under any program of Federal educational assistance by reason of such section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that no educational assistance under the provisions of law specified in subsection (b) is available or used for education at the institution for the period of institutional fiscal years covered by such notice.

''(b) COVERED ASSISTANCE.—The provisions of law specified in this subsection are the provisions of law on educational assistance through the Department under chapters 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 of this title.

''(c) NOTICE ON INELIGIBILITY.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take appropriate actions to notify persons receiving or eligible for educational assistance under the provisions of law specified in subsection (b) of the application of the limitations in section 487(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to particular proprietary institutions of higher education.

''(2) The actions taken under this subsection with respect to a proprietary institution shall include publication, on the Internet website of the Department that provides information to persons described in paragraph (1), of the following:

''(A) The name of the institution.

''(B) The extent to which the institution failed to meet the requirements of section 487(a)(24) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

''(C) The length of time the institution will be ineligible for participation in or receipt of funds under any program of Federal educational assistance by reason of section 487(d)(2)(A) of that Act.

''(D) The nonavailability of educational assistance through the Department for enrollment, attendance, or pursuit of a program of education at the institution by reason of such ineligibility.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 36 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3681 the following new item:

''3681A. Ineligibility of certain proprietary institutions of higher education for participation in Department of Veterans Affairs programs of educational assistance.''.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 101 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2008 the following new section:

''§ 2008a. Ineligibility of certain proprietary institutions of higher education for participation in Department of Defense programs of educational assistance

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of a notice from the Secretary of Education under clause (iii) of section 487(d)(2)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(d)(2)(A)) that a proprietary institution of higher education is ineligible for participation in or receipt of funds under any program of Federal educational assistance by reason of such section, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that no educational assistance under the provisions of law specified in subsection (b) is available or used for education at the institution for the period of institutional fiscal years covered by such notice.

''(b) COVERED ASSISTANCE.—The provisions of law specified in this subsection are the provisions of law on educational assistance through the Department of Defense as follows:

''(1) This chapter.

''(2) Chapters 105, 106A, 1606, 1607, and 1608 of this title.

''(3) Section 1784a of this title.

''(c) NOTICE ON INELIGIBILITY.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to notify persons receiving or eligible for educational assistance under the provisions of law specified in subsection (b) of the application of the limitations in section 487(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to particular proprietary institutions of higher education.

''(2) The actions taken under this subsection with respect to a proprietary institution shall include publication, on the Internet website of the Department of Defense that provides information to persons described in paragraph (1), of the following:

''(A) The name of the institution.

''(B) The extent to which the institution failed to meet the requirements of section 487(a)(24) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

''(C) The length of time the institution will be ineligible for participation in or receipt of funds under any program of Federal educational assistance by reason of section 487(d)(2)(A) of that Act.

''(D) The nonavailability of educational assistance through the Department for enrollment, attendance, or pursuit of a program of education at the institution by reason of such ineligibility.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 101 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2008 the following new item:

''2008a. Ineligibility of certain proprietary institutions of higher education for participation in Department of Defense programs of educational assistance.''.

SEC. ____. PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS FOR PROPRIETARY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(24)—

(A) by inserting ''that receives funds provided under this title'' before '', such institution''; and

(B) by striking ''other than funds provided under this title, as calculated in accordance with subsection (d)(1)'' and inserting ''other than Federal educational assistance, as defined in subsection (d)(5) and calculated in accordance with subsection (d)(1)''; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''NON-TITLE IV'' and inserting ''NON-FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''that receives funds provided under this title'' before ''shall'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking ''assistance under this title'' and inserting ''Federal educational assistance''; and

(II) in clause (ii)(I), by inserting '', or on a military base if the administering Secretary for a program of Federal educational assistance under clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of paragraph (5)(B) has authorized such location'' before the semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''program under this title'' and inserting ''program of Federal educational assistance'';

(iv) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''funds received under this title'' and inserting ''Federal educational assistance''; and

(v) in subparagraph (F)—

(I) in clause (iii), by striking ''under this title'' and inserting ''of Federal educational assistance''; and

(II) in clause (iv), by striking ''under this title'' and inserting ''of Federal educational assistance'';

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) INELIGIBILITY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a proprietary institution of higher education receiving funds provided under this title that fails to meet a requirement of subsection (a)(24) for two consecutive institutional fiscal years shall be ineligible to participate in or receive funds under any program of Federal educational assistance for a period of not less than two institutional fiscal years.

''(ii) REGAINING ELIGIBILITY.—To regain eligibility to participate in or receive funds under any program of Federal educational assistance after being ineligible pursuant to clause (i), a proprietary institution of higher education shall demonstrate compliance with all eligibility and certification requirements for the program for a minimum of two institutional fiscal years after the institutional fiscal year in which the institution became ineligible. In order to regain eligibility to participate in any program of Federal educational assistance under this title, such compliance shall include meeting the requirements of section 498 for such 2-year period.

''(iii) NOTIFICATION OF INELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of Education shall determine when a proprietary institution of higher education that receives funds under this title is ineligible under clause (i) and shall notify all other administering Secretaries of the determination.

''(iv) ENFORCEMENT.—Each administering Secretary for a program of Federal educational assistance shall enforce the requirements of this subparagraph for the program concerned upon receiving notification under clause (iii) of a proprietary institution of higher education's ineligibility.''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ''In addition'' and all that follows through ''education fails'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in addition to such other means of enforcing the requirements of a program of Federal educational assistance as may be available to the administering Secretary, if

a proprietary institution of higher education that receives funds provided under this title fails''; and

(bb) by striking ''the programs authorized by this title'' and inserting ''all programs of Federal educational assistance''; and

(II) in clause (i), by inserting ''with respect to a program of Federal educational assistance under this title,'' before ''on the expiration date'';

(D) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking ''sources under this title'' and inserting ''Federal educational assistance''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) ADMINISTERING SECRETARY.—The term 'administering Secretary' means the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Secretary of a military department responsible for administering the Federal educational assistance concerned.

''(B) FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The term 'Federal educational assistance' means funds provided under any of the following provisions of law:

''(i) This title.

''(ii) Chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of title 38, United States Code.

''(iii) Chapter 101, 105, 106A, 1606, 1607, or 1608 of title 10, United States Code.

''(iv) Section 1784a of title 10, United States Code.''.

SA 2798. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ___. GRANTS FOR TRAINING OF VETERANS WHO OWN SMALL BUSINESSES ON APPLYING FOR FEDERAL CONTRACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may award a grant to a nonprofit organization to assist such organization in providing training to a veteran who is an owner of a small business concern on how to apply for and win a contract with the Federal Government.

(b) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The total amount of grants awarded under subsection (a) may not exceed $1,000,000.

(2) INDIVIDUAL GRANT AMOUNTS.—A grant awarded under subsection (a) may not exceed $200,000.

(c) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Secretary may award a grant under subsection (a) to a nonprofit organization to conduct training only if the organization agrees to make contributions toward the cost of conducting such training, from non-Federal sources, in an amount equal to not less than the amount of the grant.

(d) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''small business concern'' has the meaning given such term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SA 2799. Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. KERRY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ___. NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended by striking section 33 (15 U.S.C. 657c).

(b) CORPORATION.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Veterans Business Development Corporation and any successor thereto may not represent that the corporation is federally chartered or in any other manner authorized by the Federal Government.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.), as amended by this section, is amended—

(A) by redesignating sections 34 through 45 as sections 33 through 44, respectively;

(B) in section 9(k)(1)(D) (15 U.S.C. 638(k)(1)(D)), by striking ''section 34(d)'' and inserting ''section 33(d)'';

(C) in section 33 (15 U.S.C. 657d), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''section 35'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 34'';

(ii) in subsection (a)—

(I) in paragraph (2), by striking ''section 35(c)(2)(B)'' and inserting ''section 34(c)(2)(B)'';

(II) in paragraph (4), by striking ''section 35(c)(2)'' and inserting ''section 34(c)(2)''; and

(III) in paragraph (5), by striking ''section 35(c)'' and inserting ''section 34(c)''; and

(iii) in subsection (h)(2), by striking ''section 35(d)'' and inserting ''section 34(d)'';

(D) in section 34 (15 U.S.C. 657e), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''section 34'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 33''; and

(ii) in subsection (c)(1), by striking section ''34(c)(1)(E)(ii)'' and inserting section ''33(c)(1)(E)(ii)'';

(E) in section 36(d) (15 U.S.C. 657i(d)), as so redesignated, by striking ''section 43'' and inserting ''section 42'';

(F) in section 39(d) (15 U.S.C. 657l(d)), as so redesignated, by striking ''section 43'' and inserting ''section 42''; and

(G) in section 40(b) (15 U.S.C. 657m(b)), as so redesignated, by striking ''section 43'' and inserting ''section 42''.

(2) TITLE 10.—Section 1142(b)(13) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and the National Veterans Business Development Corporation''.

(3) TITLE 38.—Section 3452(h) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''any of the'' and all that follows and inserting ''any small business development center described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), insofar as such center offers, sponsors, or cosponsors an entrepreneurship course, as that term is defined in section 3675(c)(2).''.

(4) FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008.—Section 12072(c)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 636g(c)(2)) is amended by striking ''section 43 of the Small Business Act, as added by this Act'' and inserting ''section 42 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657o)''.

(5) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999.—Section 203(c)(5) of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C. 657b note) is amended by striking ''In cooperation with the National Veterans Business Development Corporation, develop'' and inserting ''Develop''.

SA 2800. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 18, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 7. IDENTIFICATION OF UNCLAIMED AND ABANDONED HUMAN REMAINS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress recognizes the tireless work and dedication of the members of the Missing in America Project, in conjunction with numerous veterans service organizations, in identifying the unclaimed remains of veterans.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF UNCLAIMED OR ABANDONED HUMAN REMAINS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall cooperate with veterans service organizations to assist entities in possession of unclaimed or abandoned human remains in determining if any such remains are the remains of veterans or other individuals eligible for burial in a national cemetery.

(c) BURIAL OF UNCLAIMED OR ABANDONED HUMAN REMAINS.—

(1) FUNERAL EXPENSES.—Section 2302(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''who was a veteran of any war or was discharged or released from the active military, naval, or air service for a disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty, whose body is held by a State (or a political subdivision of a State), and''.

(2) TRANSPORTATION COSTS.—Section 2308 of such title is amended—

(A) by striking ''Where a veteran'' and all that follows through ''compensation, the'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—The'';

(B) in subsection (a), as designated by subparagraph (A), by inserting ''described in subsection (b)'' after ''of the deceased veteran''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) DECEASED VETERAN DESCRIBED.—A deceased veteran described in this subsection is any of the following veterans:

''(1) A veteran who dies as the result of a service-connected disability.

''(2) A veteran who dies while in receipt of disability compensation (or who but for the receipt of retirement pay or pension under this title, would have been entitled to compensation).

''(3) A veteran whom the Secretary determines is eligible for funeral expenses under section 2302 of this title by virtue of the Secretary determining that the veteran has no next of kin or other person claiming the body of such veteran pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A) of such section.''.

SA 2801. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 10. DOMICILE REQUIREMENT FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE.

Section 31311(a)(12) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(12)(A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the State may issue a commercial driver's license only to an individual who operates or will operate a commercial motor vehicle and is domiciled in the State.

''(B) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, the State may issue a commercial driver's license to an individual who—

''(i) operates or will operate a commercial motor vehicle; and

''(ii) is not domiciled in a State that issues commercial driver's licenses.

''(C) The State may issue a commercial driver's license to an individual who—

''(i) operates or will operate a commercial motor vehicle;

''(ii) is a member of the active duty military, military reserves, National Guard, active duty United States Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary; and

''(iii) is not domiciled in the State, but whose temporary or permanent duty station is located in the State.''.

SA 2802. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____. SPECTRUM INCENTIVE AUCTION BIDDING CREDIT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall establish a program to promote the hiring of veterans by providing an eligible bidder in an incentive auction conducted under section 309(j)(8)(G) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(8)(G)) a bidding credit if the workforce of the eligible bidder is comprised of not less than a minimum percentage of veterans to be determined by the Federal Communications Commission in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SA 2803. Mr. BROWN of Ohio submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. _____. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS PURSUING A DEGREE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, OR MATH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3316 the following new section:

"§ 3316A. Additional educational assistance for veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay to each individual entitled to educational assistance under this chapter who is pursuing a program of education described in subsection (b) an amount equal to $2,000 per academic year, or fraction thereof for enrollment lasting less than one academic year. Amounts payable to an individual under this section are in addition to any other amounts payable to such individual under this chapter.

''(b) COVERED PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION.—A program of education described in this subsection is a program of education with a focus (as determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary for purposes of this section) on science, technology, engineering, or math.

''(c) FREQUENCY OF PAYMENT.—Payment of the amount payable under subsection (a) shall be made in a lump-sum amount for the entire quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, of the program of education at the start of the commencement of such quarter, semester, or term.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 30 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3020 the following new item:

''3316A. Additional educational assistance for veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math.''.

SA 2804. Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 18, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 7. PROVISION OF STATUS UNDER LAW BY HONORING CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES AS VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 107 the following new section:

"§ 107A. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components

''Any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of title 10 to retired pay for nonregular service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled to any benefit by reason of this section.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 107 the following new item:

''107A. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components.''.

SA 2805. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____. UNENFORCEABILITY OF AGREEMENTS TO ARBITRATE DISPUTES ARISING UNDER USERRA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 4328. Unenforceability of agreements to arbitrate disputes

''(a) PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEE RIGHTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any clause of any agreement between an employer and an employee that requires arbitration of a dispute arising under this chapter shall not be enforceable.

''(b) EXCEPTIONS.—(1) Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to any dispute if, after such dispute arises, the parties involved knowingly and voluntarily agree to submit such dispute to arbitration.

''(2) Subsection (a) shall not preclude the enforcement of any of the rights or terms of a valid collective bargaining agreement.

''(c) VALIDITY AND ENFORCEMENT.—Any issue as to whether this section applies to an arbitration clause shall be determined by Federal law. Except as otherwise provided in chapter 1 of title 9, the validity or enforceability of an agreement to arbitrate referred to in subsection (a) or (b)(1) shall be determined by a court, rather than the arbitrator, regardless of whether the party resisting arbitration challenges the agreement to arbitrate specifically or in conjunction with other terms of the agreement.

''(d) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply with respect to all contracts and agreements between an employer and an employee in force before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this section.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4327 the following new item:

''4328. Unenforceability of agreements to arbitrate disputes.''.

(c) APPLICATION.—The provisions of section 4328 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply to—

(1) any failure to comply with a provision of or any violation of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, that occurs before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) to all actions or complaints filed under such chapter 43 that are pending on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. ____. EXPANSION OF EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES TO INCLUDE PROTECTION FOR ABSENCES FROM EMPLOYMENT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT RELATING TO SERVICE-CONNECTED INJURIES AND ILLNESSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4303(13) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''a period for which a person is absent from a position of employment for the purpose of medical or dental treatment for an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in line of duty during a period of service in the uniformed services,'' after ''for any such duty,''.

(b) FMLA.—

(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of that section 4303(13) and each covered provision—

(A) the reference in that section 4303(13) to a period for which a person is absent from a position of employment for the purpose of medical or dental treatment shall not be considered to be a reference to a period of leave under a covered provision; and

(B) the person's employer shall not designate the period of absence as such a period of leave,

unless the person requests and obtains the leave under the corresponding covered provision.

(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''covered provision'' means—

(A) title I of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), including the application of that title under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) and chapter 5 of title 3, United States Code; and

(B) subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. ____. SUSPENSION, TERMINATION, OR DEBARMENT OF CONTRACTORS FOR REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OR REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 4329. Suspension, termination, or debarment of contractors

''(a) GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION, TERMINATION, OR DEBARMENT.—Payment under a contract awarded by a Federal executive agency may be suspended and the contract may be terminated, and the contractor who made the contract with the agency may be suspended or debarred in accordance with the requirements of this section, if the head of the agency determines that the contractor as an employer has repeatedly failed or refused to comply with a provision of this chapter.

''(b) CONDUCT OF SUSPENSION, TERMINATION, AND DEBARMENT PROCEEDINGS.—A contracting officer who determines in writing that cause for suspension of payments, termination, or suspension or debarment exists shall initiate an appropriate action, to be

conducted by the agency concerned in accordance with applicable law, including Executive Order 12549 or any superseding executive order, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and any other regulations prescribed to implement the law or executive order.

''(c) EFFECT OF DEBARMENT.—A contractor debarred by a final decision under this section is ineligible for award of a contract by a Federal executive agency, and for participation in a future procurement by a Federal executive agency, for a period specified in the decision, not to exceed 5 years.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 43 of such title, as amended by section 2, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4328, as added by such section, the following new item:

''4329. Suspension, termination, or debarment of contractor.''.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council shall amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to carry out section 4329 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 4329 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to failures and refusals to comply with provisions of chapter 43 of such title occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2806. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. _____. LIMIT ON AWARDS AND BONUSES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

For each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not pay more than $357,613,229 in awards or bonuses under chapter 45 or 53 of title 5, United States Code, or any other awards or bonuses authorized under such title.

TITLE II—TRANSFER OF CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

SEC. 201. TRANSFER OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR VETERANS PROGRAMS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective October 1, 2014, there shall be transferred to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs all functions performed under the following programs of the Department of Labor, and all personnel, assets, and liabilities pertaining to such programs, immediately before such transfer occurs:

(A) Job counseling, training, and placement services for veterans under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) Federal Government employment services by the Secretary of Labor under section 4214 of such title.

(C) Administration of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services under chapter 43 of such title.

(D) Homeless veterans reintegration programs under chapter 20 of such title.

(E) Employment and veterans benefits training under the Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) MEMORANDUMS OF AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into memorandums of agreement with the Secretary of Labor and with States (as defined in section 4101(6) of title 38, United States Code), as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines necessary, to implement the transition of the programs specified under paragraph (1).

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title may be construed to affect the role and responsibility of the Secretary of Labor with respect to programs not administered by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training Service as of the day before the date of the enactment of this Act that are specified under paragraph (1).

(b) BUDGET REQUEST.—Under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the President shall include in the President's budget request for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015, and for each subsequent fiscal year, funding requested for the functions referred to in subsection (a)(1).

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any other Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document of or pertaining to a department or office from which a function is transferred by this title—

(1) to the head of such department or office is deemed to refer to the head of the department or office to which such function is transferred; or

(2) to such department or office is deemed to refer to the department or office to which such function is transferred.

(d) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITIES.—Except as otherwise provided by law, a Federal official to whom a function is transferred by this title may, for purposes of performing the function, exercise all authorities under any other provision of law that were available with respect to the performance of that function to the official responsible for the performance of the function immediately before the effective date of the transfer of the function under this title.

(e) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

(1) LEGAL DOCUMENTS.—All orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, licenses, and privileges—

(A) that have been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective by the President, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, any officer or employee of any office transferred by this title, or any other Government official, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, in the performance of any function that is transferred by this title, and

(B) that are in effect on the effective date of such transfer (or become effective after such date pursuant to their terms as in effect on such effective date),

shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by the President, any other authorized official, a court of competent jurisdiction, or operation of law.

(2) PROCEEDINGS.—This title shall not affect any proceedings or any application for any benefits, service, license, permit, certificate, or financial assistance pending on the date of the enactment of this Act before an office transferred by this title, but such proceedings and applications shall be continued. Orders shall be issued in such proceedings, appeals shall be taken therefrom, and payments shall be made pursuant to such orders, as if this title had not been enacted, and orders issued in any such proceeding shall continue in effect until modified, terminated, superseded, or revoked by a duly authorized official, by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law. Nothing in this subsection shall be considered to prohibit the discontinuance or modification of any such proceeding under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that such proceeding could have been discontinued or modified if this title had not been enacted.

(3) SUITS.—This title shall not affect suits commenced before the date of the enactment of this Act, and in all such suits, proceeding shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered in the same manner and with the same effect as if this title had not been enacted.

(4) NONABATEMENT OF ACTIONS.—No suit, action, or other proceeding commenced by or against the Department of Labor or the Secretary of Labor, or by or against any individual in the official capacity of such individual as an officer or employee of an office transferred by this title, shall abate by reason of the enactment of this Act.

(5) CONTINUANCE OF SUITS.—If any Government officer in the official capacity of such officer is party to a suit with respect to a function of the officer, and under this title such function is transferred to any other officer or office, then such suit shall be continued with the other officer or the head of such other office, as applicable, substituted or added as a party.

(6) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Except as otherwise provided by this title, any statutory requirements relating to notice, hearings, action upon the record, or administrative or judicial review that apply to any function transferred by this title shall apply to the exercise of such function by the head of the Federal agency, and other officers of the agency, to which such function is transferred by this title.

(f) TRANSFER OF ASSETS.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, so much of the personnel, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds employed, used, held, available, or to be made available in connection with a function transferred to an official or agency by this title shall be available to the official or the head of that agency, respectively, at such time or times as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget directs for use in connection with the functions transferred.

(g) DELEGATION AND ASSIGNMENT.—Except as otherwise expressly prohibited by law or otherwise provided in this title, an official to whom functions are transferred under this title (including the head of any office to which functions are transferred under this title) may delegate any of the functions so transferred to such officers and employees of the office of the official as the official may designate, and may authorize successive redelegations of such functions as may be necessary or appropriate. No delegation of functions under this section or under any other provision of this title shall relieve the official to whom a function is transferred under this title of responsibility for the administration of the function.

(h) AUTHORITY OF DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WITH RESPECT TO FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED.—

(1) DETERMINATIONS.—If necessary, the Director of Management and Budget shall make any determination of the functions that are transferred under this title.

(2) INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS.—The Director, at such time or times as the Director shall provide, may make such determinations as may be necessary with regard to the functions transferred by this title, and to make such additional incidental dispositions of personnel, assets, liabilities, grants, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds held, used, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with such functions, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title. The Director shall provide for the termination of the affairs of all entities

terminated by this title and for such further measures and dispositions as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this title.

(i) CERTAIN VESTING OF FUNCTIONS CONSIDERED TRANSFERS.—For purposes of this title, the vesting of a function in a department or office pursuant to reestablishment of an office shall be considered to be the transfer of the function.

(j) AVAILABILITY OF EXISTING FUNDS.—Existing appropriations and funds available for the performance of functions, programs, and activities terminated pursuant to this title shall remain available, for the duration of their period of availability, for necessary expenses in connection with the termination and resolution of such functions, programs, and activities.

(k) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this title—

(1) the term ''function'' includes any duty, obligation, power, authority, responsibility, right, privilege, activity, or program; and

(2) the term ''office'' includes any office, administration, agency, bureau, institute, council, unit, organizational entity, or component thereof.

SEC. 202. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 4102A of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(a) DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—There is established within the Department a Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training, who shall formulate and implement all departmental policies and procedures to carry out the purposes of this chapter, chapter 20, and chapter 43 of this title and the Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) The section heading of section 4102A of such title is amended to read as follows:

''§ 4102A. Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training; program functions; Regional Administrators''.

(2) The item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended to read as follows:

''4102A. Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training; program functions; Regional Administrators.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 203. CONSOLIDATION OF DISABLED VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM AND LOCAL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) CONSOLIDATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4104 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 4104. Veteran employment specialists

''(a) REQUIREMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT BY STATES.—(1) Subject to approval by the Secretary, a State shall employ and assign such full- or part-time veteran employment specialists in an agency of the State as the State determines appropriate and efficient to carry out the following:

''(A) Employment, training, and placement services under this chapter.

''(B) Intensive services under this chapter to meet the employment needs of eligible veterans with the following priority in the provision of services:

''(i) Special disabled veterans.

''(ii) Other disabled veterans.

''(iii) Other eligible veterans in accordance with priorities determined by the Secretary taking into account applicable rates of unemployment and the employment emphases set forth in chapter 42 of this title.

''(2) In the provision of services in accordance with this subsection, maximum emphasis in meeting the employment and training needs of veterans shall be placed on assisting economically or educationally disadvantaged veterans.

''(b) PRINCIPAL DUTIES.—As principal duties, veteran employment specialists shall—

''(1) conduct outreach to employers in the area to assist veterans and disabled veterans in gaining employment, including conducting seminars for employers and, in conjunction with employers, conducting job search workshops and establishing job search groups; and

''(2) facilitate employment, training, and placement services furnished to veterans and disabled veterans in a State under the applicable State employment service delivery systems.

''(c) REQUIREMENT FOR QUALIFIED VETERANS.—(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2), a State shall, to the maximum extent practicable, employ qualified veterans to carry out the services referred to in subsection (a). Preference shall be given in the appointment of such specialists to qualified disabled veterans. Preference shall be accorded in the following order:

''(A) To qualified service-connected disabled veterans.

''(B) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) is available, to qualified eligible veterans.

''(C) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) or (B) is available, then to qualified eligible persons.

''(2) During any period in which more than 10 percent of the individuals employed to carry out the services referred to in subsection (a) are non-veterans, the preference accorded under paragraph (1) shall be as follows:

''(A) To qualified service-connected disabled veterans.

''(B) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) is available, to qualified eligible veterans.

''(3)(A) Each State that employs a veteran employment specialist under this section shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the qualifications used by the State in making hiring determinations for such specialists and the salary structure under which such specialists are compensated.

''(B) The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives an annual report summarizing the reports submitted under subparagraph (A).

''(C) The first report submitted by the Secretary under subparagraph (B) shall include an evaluation of whether the pay for veteran employment specialists should be scheduled on a standard basis for each State and include locality pay.

''(d) PART-TIME EMPLOYEES.—A part-time veteran employment specialist shall perform the functions of a veteran employment specialist under this section on a halftime basis.

''(e) REPORTING.—Each veteran employment specialist shall be administratively responsible to the manager of the employment service delivery system and shall provide reports, not less frequently than quarterly, to the manager of such office and to the Director for Veterans' Employment and Training for the State regarding compliance with Federal law and regulations with respect to special services and priorities for eligible veterans and eligible persons.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the item relating to section 4104 and inserting the following new item:

''4104. Veteran employment specialists.''.

(3) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that an individual who is a veteran employment specialist under section 4104 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1), is properly trained to carry out the duties of such position.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is further amended—

(1) by striking section 4103A and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 41 of such title;

(2) in section 4102A—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (5)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (B) and redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B);

(II) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) veteran employment specialists appointed under section 4104(a) of this title; and''; and

(III) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, by striking ''such specialists and representatives described in subparagraphs (A) and (B)'' and inserting ''such representatives described in subparagraph (A)'';

(ii) in paragraph (7), by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialists and through local veterans' employment representatives'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialists'';

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking ''sections 4103A(a) and'' and inserting ''section''; and

(II) by striking ''section 4103A or'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(I) in clause (i)(I)—

(aa) by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialists and local veterans' employment representatives'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialists''; and

(bb) by striking ''sections 4103A and 4104'' and inserting ''section 4104'';

(II) in clause (iii), by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialist or a local veterans' employment representative'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialist'';

(iii) in paragraph (4), by striking ''4103A or'';

(iv) in paragraph (5), by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialist and local veterans' employment representative'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialist'';

(v) in paragraph (7), by striking ''4103A or''; and

(vi) in paragraph (8)(A)—

(I) by striking ''4103A or''; and

(II) by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialist or a local veterans' employment representative'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialist''; and

(C) in subsection (f)(1), by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialists and local veterans' employment representatives'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialists'';

(3) in section 4109(a), by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialists, local veterans' employment representatives'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialists'';

(4) in section 4112(d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialist'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialist''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(5) in section 3672(d)(1), by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialists under section 4103A'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialists appointed under section 4104(a)''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 204. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) CHAPTER 41.—Chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by this title, is further amended as follows:

(1) By striking ''Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training'' each place it appears and inserting ''Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training''.

(2) By striking ''Department of Labor'' each place it appears and inserting ''Department''.

(3) By striking ''Secretary of Labor'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary''.

(4) In section 4101, by striking paragraph (8).

(5) In section 4102A(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''such Assistant Secretary'' and inserting ''such Deputy Under Secretary''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and consulting with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs''.

(6) In section 4105(b), by striking ''and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs'' both places it appears.

(7) In section 4106(a), by striking ''chapters 42 and'' and inserting ''chapter''.

(8) By striking section 4108.

(9) In the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, by striking the item relating to section 4108.

(10) In section 4110(d), by striking paragraph (1) and redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (1) through (5), respectively.

(11) In section 4110A(b), by striking ''Congress'' and inserting ''the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives''.

(12) In subsections (b) through (h) of section 4114, by striking ''Assistant Secretary'' each place it appears and inserting ''Deputy Under Secretary''.

(b) CHAPTER 42.—Chapter 42 of title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 4212(c), by striking ''include as part'' and inserting ''shall transmit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion as part''.

(2) In section 4215(d)(1)—

(A) by striking ''In the'' and inserting ''For inclusion as part of the''; and

(B) by striking ''shall evaluate'' and inserting ''shall transmit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs an evaluation of''.

(c) CHAPTER 43.—Chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 4303, by striking paragraph (11).

(2) By striking ''Secretary of Veterans Affairs'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary''.

(3) In section 4321, by striking ''(through the Veterans' Employment and Training Service)''.

(4) In section 4332(a)(1), by striking ''of Labor''.

(5) In section 4333, by striking '', the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs'' and inserting ''and the Secretary of Defense''.

(d) CHAPTER 20.—Chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 2003(a)(4), by striking ''of the Department of Labor''.

(2) In section 2011(g)(2), by striking ''the Department of Labor,''.

(3) In section 2021—

(A) by striking ''Secretary of Labor'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary'';

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking the subsection heading and inserting the following:

''(c) ADMINISTRATION THROUGH DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—''; and

(ii) by striking ''Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training'' and inserting ''Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training''.

(4) In section 2021A—

(A) by striking ''Secretary of Labor'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary'';

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) by striking the subsection heading and inserting the following:

''(d) ADMINISTRATION THROUGH DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—''; and

(ii) by striking ''Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training'' and inserting ''Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training''.

(5) In Section 2023—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''and the Secretary of Labor (hereinafter in this section referred to as the 'Secretaries')''; and

(B) by striking ''Secretaries'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary''.

(6) In section 2065(b)(5), by striking subparagraph (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (F) through (H) as subparagraphs (E) through (G), respectively.

(7) In section 2066(a)(3), by striking subparagraph (A) and redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (G) as subparagraphs (A) through (F), respectively.

(e) OTHER PROVISIONS OF TITLE 38.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended as follows:

(1) In section 542(a)(2)(B), by striking clause (i) and redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively.

(2) In section 544(a)(2)(B), by striking clause (i) and redesignating clauses (ii) through (vi) as clauses (i) through (v), respectively.

(3) In section 3118(b), by striking ''and the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment in the Department of Labor''.

(4) In section 3119(c), by striking ''Education, the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment in the Department of Labor,''.

(5) In section 3121(a)(3)—

(A) by striking '', (B)'' and inserting ''and (B)''; and

(B) by striking '', and (C) one representative of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training of the Department of Labor. (b) The Secretary shall, on a regular basis, consult with and seek the advice of the Committee with respect to the administration of veterans' rehabilitation programs under this title''.

(6) In section 3692(a), by striking ''and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training shall be ex officio members'' and inserting ''an ex officio member''.

(7) In section 6306—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''shall arrange with the Secretary of Labor for the State employment service to match'' and inserting ''shall ensure that the State employment service matches''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking '', in consultation with the Secretary of Labor,''.

(f) TITLE 10.—

(1) TAP PROGRAM.—Section 1144 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''Secretary of Labor'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of Veterans Affairs'';

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking '', the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs'' and inserting ''and the Secretary of Homeland Security''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking '', the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall cooperate with the Secretary of Labor'' and inserting ''and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall cooperate with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs'';

(C) in subsection (d)(1), by striking ''Department of Labor to'' and inserting ''Department of Veterans Affairs to''; and

(D) in the heading, by striking ''**: Department of Labor**''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 58 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1144 and inserting the following new item:

''1144. Employment assistance, job training assistance, and other transitional services.''.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 205. STUDY AND REPORT ON TRANSFER OF PROGRAMS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly conduct a study on implementing—

(1) the transfer of functions under section 201; and

(2) the amendments made by this title.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A comprehensive discussion of the improvements to services for veterans made by the transfer of functions under section 201.

(2) An analysis of the personnel, assets, and liabilities of the Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs that would be involved in such transfer.

(3) An analysis of the Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training established under section 4102A(a) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by this title, including—

(A) an explanation of where such position would exist within the organization chart of the Department;

(B) to whom such position would report to; and

(C) the functions that would be carried out by such a position.

(4) A detailed estimate of the cost to the Federal Government to implement such transfer, including any costs or savings resulting from—

(A) carrying out such implementation; and

(B) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs carrying out the functions so transferred.

(5) A plan to implement such transfer, including—

(A) a detailed time line of such implementation;

(B) a list of the rules, regulations, and laws in effect on the date of the study that would need to be revised for such implementation;

(C) a list of the memorandums of agreement entered into with Federal or State departments or agencies that would need to be revised for such implementation;

(D) a detailed description of how to effectively enforce the administration of employment and employment rights of members of the uniformed services under chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, during such implementation; and

(E) how the transfer of employees will be implemented, including—

(i) options available to employees who do not want to be transferred;

(ii) the locations of where former Department of Labor employees will be assigned in the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(iii) any organizational changes required in the Department of Veterans Affairs to accommodate such new employees.

(6) A detailed plan to train employees who carry out activities under section 4104 of title 38, United States Code, to carry out the functions so transferred, including—

(A) how current training manuals would need to be revised;

(B) whether the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Secretary of Labor would have responsibility for any such revision; and

(C) where such employees would be located.

(7) Any other issues the Secretaries consider appropriate.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall jointly submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), including—

(1) the recommendation of each Secretary as to best implement the transfer of functions described in such study;

(2) the advantages and disadvantages of such transfer;

(3) a list of regulatory and statutory actions required to implement such transfer that are not included under this title;

(4) the amount of time each Secretary determines necessary to carry out such transfer;

(5) whether, to carry out such transfer, any interoperability capabilities will need to be developed to electronically exchange information between the Department of Veterans Affairs and employees who were formerly under the Department of Labor before such transfer;

(6) whether each Secretary plans to continue collaborating with the other Secretary after such transfer is completed, including an explanation of such planned collaboration;

(7) an estimate of the training required to carry out the functions so transferred, including the number of employees requiring training and for which programs; and

(8) any other matters the Secretaries consider appropriate.

SA 2807. Mr. BROWN, of Ohio (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to sit on the table; as follows:

On page 23, after line 20, add the following:

SEC. 10. ACCESS TO NATIONAL WAR MEMORIALS BY TOURS ORGANIZED BY VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the National Park Service) shall jointly—

(1) establish procedures for veterans service organizations to register for annual visitor passes to the Korean War Veterans Memorial, National World War II Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that would facilitate veterans service organizations in bringing groups of veterans and immediate family members of the veterans to visit those memorials; and

(2) provide for a reduction or waiver of the visitor fees, and a reduction in the paperwork requirements, applicable to veterans service organizations in bringing groups of veterans and immediate family members of the veterans to visit the memorials described in paragraph (1).

SA 2808. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2789 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:

Sec. ____.

This Act shall become effective 7 days after enactment.

SA 2809. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2808 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2789 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''7 days'' and insert ''6 days''.

SA 2810. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:

Sec. ____.

This Act shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

SA 2811. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2810 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''5 days'' and insert ''4 days''.

SA 2812. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:

Sec. ____.

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

SA 2813. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2812 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''3 days'' and insert ''2 days''.

SA 2814. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2813 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2812 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''2 days'' and insert ''1 day''.

SA 2815. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. LIMITATION OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO LIBYA AND EGYPT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided under subsection (b), no amounts may be obligated or expended to provide any direct United States assistance, loan guarantee, or debt relief to the Government of Egypt or the Government of Libya.

(b) WAIVER AND CERTIFICATION.—Beginning 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) with respect to the Government of Libya or the Government of Egypt if the President certifies to Congress that—

(1) the Government is cooperating or has cooperated fully with investigations into the September 11, 2012, attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya, or the September 11, 2012, attack on the United States Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, as the case may be; and

(2) all identifiable persons associated with organizing, planning, or participating in the attack—

(A) have been identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and

(B) are in the custody of the United States Government.

(c) REPORT ON UNSECURED WEAPONS IN LIBYA.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report to Congress examining the extent to which advanced weaponry remaining unsecured after the fall of Moammar Qaddafi was used by the individuals responsible for the September 11, 2012, attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as an authorization for the use of military force.

SA 2816. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 10. PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, THEIR DEPENDENTS, AND VETERANS.

(a) PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND DEPENDENTS.—The Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General shall jointly carry out a program (commonly referred to as a ''prescription drug take-back program'') under which members of the Armed Forces and dependents of members of the Armed Forces may deliver controlled substances to military medical treatment facilities to be disposed of in accordance with section 302(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(g)).

(b) PROGRAM FOR VETERANS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Attorney General shall jointly carry out a program under which veterans may deliver controlled substances to be disposed of in accordance with section 302(g) of the Controlled Substances Act.

(c) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The programs required by this section shall provide for the following:

(1) In the case of the program required by subsection (a), the delivery of controlled substances under the program to such members of the Armed Forces, medical professionals, and other employees of the Department of Defense, and to such other acceptance mechanisms, as the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General jointly specify for purposes of the program.

(2) In the case of the program required by subsection (b), the delivery of controlled substances under the program to such employees of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to such other acceptance mechanisms, as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Attorney General jointly specify for purposes of the program.

(3) Appropriate guidelines and procedures to prevent the diversion, misuse, theft, or loss of controlled substances delivered under such programs.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing will be to hear testimony on four items:

S. 3265, a bill to amend the Federal Power Act to remove the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to collect land use fees for land that has been sold, exchanged, or otherwise transferred from Federal ownership but that is subject to a power site reservation;

H.R. 2842, Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act of 2012;

S. 3464, Mni Wiconi Project Act Amendments of 2012; and

S. 3483, Crooked River Collaborative Water Security Act.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record 'should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by email to Meagan___Gins@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sara Tucker at (202) 224–6224 or Meagan Gins at (202) 224–0883.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 2 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The Committee will conduct a hearing entitled, ''The Path from LEO to Mars.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS AND SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 10 a.m. in Dirksen 406 to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Oversight Hearing: NRC's Implementation of Recommendations for Enhancing Nuclear Reactor Safety in the 21st Century.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Update on the Crisis in Syria and Iran''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 2:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Moving from Scandal to Strategy: The Future of the General Services Administration.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 12, 2012, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Citizens United Court and the Continuing Importance of the Voting Rights Act.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session on September 12, 2012, in room 418 of the Senate Russell Office Building beginning at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Andrea Chapman, Claire Green, Sarah Weaver, Sterling Laudon, Owen Haacke, James Mathis, and Joseph Steffens, staff of the Finance Committee, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the 112th Congress.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Robert Morus, an intern in the office of the Senator from Oregon, be granted the privilege of the floor for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ACCEPTING AND DEPICTING FREDERICK DOUGLASS STATUE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6336.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6336) to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Frederick Douglass from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the statues and busts in the U.S. Capitol depicting distinguished Americans number more than 120. However, among the collection are only two African Americans, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Sojourner Truth. This disparity fails to acknowledge the historically significant contributions of African Americans to our Nation. I am pleased that passage of H.R. 6336 today begins to address this need to display in the U.S. Capitol the statues and busts of outstanding African Americans whose contributions to the country deserve such recognition.

In my fiscal year 2013 Senate Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill reported by the committee on June 14, I included a provision to permit the District of Columbia to donate and the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue of Frederick Douglass for placement in the United States Capitol. All costs of the transportation and placement of the statue would be borne by the District of Columbia. Subsequently, I joined Senator SCHUMER in introducing a free-standing resolution for acquisition of the Douglass statue. The House acted on its own measure and unanimously approved it earlier this week.

Frederick Douglass was one of the most influential orators and writers of

the 19th century, an advocate for abolitionism, women's suffrage, and the equality of all people. He worked tirelessly on behalf of emancipation. As a pivotal figure in Underground Railroad activities, he was an inspiration to enslaved Americans who aspired to freedom and equal rights.

As one of our Nation's most powerful voices for justice and the equality of all people, Frederick Douglass' writings and teachings still speak to Americans today. Moving a statue of Frederick Douglass to the Emancipation Hall not only will recognize the accomplishments of one of the most important political activists in American history, it also will help correct the imbalance of influential African Americans honored in the halls of our Nation's Capitol.

It is particularly fitting that this long overdue legislation will be enacted near the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the preliminary proclamation on September 22, 1862, that paved the way for the Emancipation Proclamation to be signed on January 1, 1863.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to praise my Senate and House colleagues for passing H.R. 6336, a bill that will allow a statue of American hero and Rochester resident, Frederick Douglass, to reside permanently in the U.S. Capitol. I am proud that after a 5-year delay, Congress is acting to ensure that millions of visitors who come to Washington every year will see Frederick Douglass among the pantheon of statues of great Americans in our Capitol.

I want to thank my good friend and colleague Senator DICK DURBIN for working with me and co-sponsoring the Senate bill that would ultimately lead to the passage of H.R. 6336. I also want to thank Representatives LUNGREN and BRADY for their bipartisan support in the House that helped bring this bill to the Senate for final passage. Lastly, I want to especially thank Delegate NORTON for her tireless efforts towards bringing the statue of this great American to our Capitol.

Bringing Frederick Douglass to the U.S. Capitol is an important step toward ensuring that Americans depicted in the art of the Capitol reflect the true heritage of our Nation and the people who have helped to make it great. Currently there are only two African Americans depicted in the U.S. Capitol: Sojourner Truth in Emancipation Hall and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Rotunda. There is little doubt that more needs to be done to make sure that a greater diversity of outstanding Americans is represented in the U.S. Capitol. There is no doubt that a statue of Frederick Douglass, a man of towering influence not only during his lifetime in the 19th century but also, through his writings and actions, to the present day, has earned a place in our Capitol.

He was born into slavery in Maryland, and at the age of 20 escaped to freedom. After living in Massachusetts, he moved to Rochester, NY, where he spent 25 highly productive and influential years and gained prominence as a leading national voice for the causes of human freedom and equality.

During his time in Rochester, he published and edited The North Star, the most prominent African American newspaper in the country. Douglass was also a leader in the Underground Railroad in Rochester and Western New York. His influential best-selling autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, served as a rallying cry for the abolitionist movement and helped bring an end to that cruel institution.

During the Seneca Falls Convention, a historic gathering near Geneva, NY, to promote women's rights in 1848, Douglass participated as the only African American and one of only 37 men out of 300 attendees. Douglass' presence at the convention in Seneca Falls visibly displayed his belief that the women's rights movement and that of emancipation went hand-in-hand. Douglass' beliefs on equality helped shape our great country and inspired generations of men and women elected to serve here in the halls of Congress. The passage of H.R. 6336 rightfully guarantees that Douglass' legacy will forever be recognized in the Capitol of a grateful Nation.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6336) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMMENDING THE FOUR AMERICAN PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO DIED IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR J. CHRISTOPHER STEVENS, AND CONDEMNING THE VIOLENT ATTACK OF THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 551.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 551) commending the 4 American public servants who died in Benghazi, Libya, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, for their tireless efforts on behalf of the American people, and condemning the violent attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the deaths of Ambassador Stevens and his team are heartbreaking. It is easy for a lot of people to forget that our diplomats are on the frontlines of the world's most dangerous places and they are there trying to make the world a safer and better place at great risk to themselves and their families.

Chris Stevens was all that and more. He was a foreign service professional down to his toes, a guy who had served on the Foreign Relations Committee and embraced tough odds and tough assignments overseas. He had the guts and grit to serve as our envoy during the rebellion, and his presence there reminded Libyans that America stood with them for freedom in the face of violence. He was continuing that noble work as Ambassador with enormous skill.

He was an important part of the work we are doing in Libya, and we will not let this deplorable violence turn back the progress he helped make possible. Let's remember that Libyans fought to protect the consulate and rescue the Americans inside, and that Libyans took Chris to a hospital in a desperate and potentially dangerous attempt to save his life. Indeed, the best way to honor his memory and that of the four American public servants who perished in Benghazi is to continue their work. The United States must continue to support the aspirations of the people of Libya for political reform based on democratic and human rights and the development of an inclusive government that ensures freedom, opportunity, and justice for the people of Libya. This is what Chris Stevens would have wanted.

The violence in Cairo and Benghazi is unacceptable and unjustifiable. The stupidity of one filmmaker, no matter how offensive, is not now, and never, a rationale for violence. A despicable act like this hurts us all—Americans and peaceful people who aspire to build their own democracy. I commend President Obama for committing to bring the perpetrators of this attack to justice, and I am confident that this is precisely what the United States Government will do.

This is one of those moments when Americans must unite as Americans. It is exactly the wrong time to throw political punches. It is a time to restore calm and proceed wisely.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who was killed in service to his country, a man who hails from my State of California, Ambassador John Christopher Stevens.

I was shocked and saddened to learn of the deaths of Ambassador Stevens and the other three Americans who were killed during the horrible attack on our consulate in Benghazi, Libya. My deepest condolences go out to their families. They remain in my thoughts and prayers.

He was struck down in the consulate by an act of mob violence which should never have taken place. There is simply no justification for this type of action and I condemn it in the strongest terms.

I would like to begin by telling you a little bit about this dedicated public servant, someone with a unique and distinguished biography.

Born and raised in Piedmont CA, Ambassador Stevens graduated from Piedmont High School before receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkley in 1982 and a J.D. from the University of California's Hastings College of Law in 1989.

Before he joined the Foreign Service in 1991, he was an international trade lawyer in Washington, DC, and from 1983 to 1985 he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco.

His overseas postings were consequential and showed he was an effective Foreign Service officer. He served as the deputy principal officer and political section chief in Jerusalem, a political officer in Damascus, a consular/political officer in Cairo, and a consular/economic officer in Riyadh.

In addition to his service abroad, Ambassador Stevens was the director of the Office of Multilateral Nuclear and Security Affairs, a Pearson Fellow with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, special assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Iran desk officer, and staff assistant in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

He also served twice in Libya before becoming Ambassador: as deputy chief of mission at our Embassy in Tripoli from 2007 to 2009 and special representative to the Libyan Transitional Council from March 2011 to November 2011.

In May 2012, he became the first U.S. Ambassador to Libya following the fall of Qadhafi.

As you can see, he had a long and distinguished career as one of our top diplomats, someone who learned the language and culture of a region of the world critical to U.S. national security interests.

Clearly, this was someone who was committed to helping the Libyan people achieve their goal of a free and democratic country after decades of brutal dictatorship.

As Ambassador, he immediately went to work to help Libya build a new future, engaging government officials, academics, businessmen, and civil society leaders on a daily basis.

Sadly, his term as Ambassador and his service to his country ended far too soon.

This attack and the assault on our Embassy in Cairo serve as sobering reminders that we must continue to pay attention to the events in the countries involved in the Arab Spring.

While in some countries like Egypt and Libya autocrats have fallen and the people have elected new leadership, tensions remain high and uncertainty about the future abounds.

There is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that these countries fully embrace democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

It is critical that those responsible for these acts are brought to justice. And I call on the Governments of Libya and Egypt to work closely with the administration to ensure that this does not happen again.

Ambassador Stevens was one of our best. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, that all Senators be added as cosponsors to the resolution, and all statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 551) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 551

Whereas on September 11, 2012, 4 American public servants, including United States Ambassador to Libya, John Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, were killed in a reprehensible and vicious attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens—

(1) was a courageous and exemplary representative of the United States;

(2) had spent 21 years in the Foreign Service;

(3) was deeply passionate about representing the United States through his diplomatic service; and

(4) was an ardent friend of the Libyan people;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens served as Special Envoy to the Libyan Transitional National Council in Benghazi during the 2011 Libyan revolution;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens was a dear friend of the Senate, having served on the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate in 2006 and 2007 as a distinguished Pearson Fellow;

Whereas Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith—

(1) was a husband and a father of 2 children;

(2) joined the Department of State 10 years ago; and

(3) had served in the Foreign Service, before arriving in Benghazi, in Baghdad, Pretoria, Montreal, and The Hague;

Whereas the 2 other individuals from Ambassador Stevens' team who perished in the attack made great sacrifices and showed bravery in taking on a difficult post in Libya;

Whereas the violence in Benghazi coincided with an attack on the United States Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, which was also swarmed by an angry mob of protesters on September 11, 2012;

Whereas on a daily basis, United States diplomats, military personnel, and other public servants risk their lives to serve the American people; and

Whereas throughout this Nation's history, thousands of Americans have sacrificed their lives for the ideals of freedom, democracy, and partnership with nations and people around the globe.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the dedicated service and deep commitment of the 4 American public servants, including Ambassador John Christopher Stevens and Sean Smith, in assisting the Libyan people as they navigate the complex currents of democratic transition marked in this case by profound instability;

(2) praises Ambassador Stevens, who represented the highest tradition of American public service, for his extraordinary record of dedication to the United States' interests in some of the most difficult and dangerous posts around the globe;

(3) sends its deepest condolences to the families of those American public servants killed in Benghazi;

(4) commends the bravery of Foreign Service Officers, United States Armed Forces, and public servants serving in harm's way around the globe and recognizes the deep sacrifices made by their families; and

(5) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the despicable attacks on American diplomats and public servants in Benghazi and calls for the perpetrators of such attacks to be brought to justice.

NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 552.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 552) recognizing the month of October 2012 as ''National Principals Month.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 552) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 552

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2012 to be ''National Principals Month'';

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2012 as ''National Principals Month''; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of the United States by supporting the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

NATIONAL FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to S. Res. 553, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 533) designating September 22, 2012, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'' to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any related statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 533) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 553

Whereas older adults, 65 years of age and older, are the fastest-growing segment of the population in the United States, and the number of older adults in the United States will increase from 35,000,000 in 2000 to 72,100,000 in 2030;

Whereas 1 out of 3 older adults in the United States falls each year;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of injury, death, and hospital admissions for traumatic injuries among older adults;

Whereas, in 2010, approximately 2,300,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries, and more than 650,000 were subsequently hospitalized;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2008, more than 20,000 older adults died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the total cost of fall-related injuries for older adults is $80,900,000,000, including more than $28,300,000,000 in direct medical costs;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the annual cost under the Medicare program will reach $59,600,000,000 by 2020; and

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls and facilitating cost-effective interventions, such as comprehensive clinical assessments, exercise programs to improve balance and health, management of medications, correction of vision, and reduction of home hazards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 22, 2012, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'';

(2) commends the Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coalitions in 43 States and the District of Columbia for their efforts to work together to increase education and awareness about the prevention of falls among older adults;

(3) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal, State, and local governments, the public health community, and health care providers to work together to promote the awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults in the United States;

(4) urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue developing and evaluating strategies to prevent falls among older adults that will translate into effective fall prevention interventions, including community-based programs;

(5) encourages State health departments, which provide significant leadership in reducing injuries and injury-related health care costs by collaborating with colleagues and a variety of organizations and individuals, to reduce falls among older adults; and

(6) recognizes proven, cost-effective falls prevention programs and policies and encourages experts in the field to share their best practices so that their success can be replicated by others.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, September 13, 2012; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that I be recognized and the first hour be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans the final half.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this evening I filed cloture on the substitute amendment to S. 3457, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act and on the underlying bill. As a result, the filing deadline for first-degree amendments to the substitute amendment and S. 3457 is 1 p.m. tomorrow.

Under the rule, the cloture votes in relation to the Veterans Jobs Corps Act will occur on Friday. I talked about it earlier this evening, and we will decide what time we are going to do that tomorrow. We hope we can reach an agreement to have the vote or votes tomorrow. If not, if all time is used, we will be voting this weekend, including tomorrow, late at night.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:38 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 13, 2012, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CHAMPAIGN NATIVE, TYLER McGILL, WINS OLYMPIC GOLD IN SWIMMING

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Olympic Swimming Gold Medalist Tyler McGill.

Champaign native, Tyler McGill, took home Olympic Gold last month. McGill was part of the 4X100-meter medley relay team that won gold in London.

McGill, born and raised in Champaign, Illinois, was a State Champion swimmer at Champaign Central High School, and went on to become an All-American swimmer at Auburn University.

Tyler has consistently been one of the top butterfly swimmers in the country. He qualified for the London Games, finishing second behind Michael Phelps at the USA Swimming Trials, with a time of 51.31 seconds.

In London Tyler qualified third for the finals of the 100-meter butterfly, eventually finishing seventh. His medaling opportunity came shortly after his seventh place finish as he swam the butterfly leg during the prelims of the 4X100-meter medley relay. USA went on to capture gold in that event and McGill took home some hardware.

I would like to congratulate Tyler's parents, Jeff and Susan, for the encouragement and support they have given Tyler over the years to become the exceptional Olympian that he is today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of September 10, 2012, upon request of a leave of absence, a series of votes were held. Had I been present for these rollcall votes, I would have casted the following votes: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 6122, To revise the authority of the Librarian of Congress to accept gifts and bequests on behalf of the Library, and for other purposes (Roll No. 557)—I vote "Yes"; On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 2139, Lions Clubs International Century of Service Commemorative Coin Act (Roll No. 558)—I vote "Yes"; On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 6186, To require a study of voluntary community-based flood insurance options and how such options could be incorporated into the national flood insurance program (Roll No. 559)—I vote "Yes."

On the Legislative Day of September 11, 2012, upon request of a leave of absence, a series of votes were held. Had I been present for these rollcall votes, I would have casted the following votes: On Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 773, Providing for consideration of H.R. 5544, to authorize and expedite a land exchange involving National Forest System land in the State of Minnesota for the public school system, and for consideration of H.R. 5949, to extend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 for 5 years (Roll No. 560)—I vote "No"; On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 773, Providing for consideration of H.R. 5544, to authorize and expedite a land exchange involving National Forest System land in the State of Minnesota for the public school system, and for consideration of H.R. 5949, to extend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 for 5 years (Roll No. 561)—I vote "No"; and On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 4264, FHA Emergency Fiscal Solvency Act (Roll No. 562)—I vote "Yes."

RECOGNIZING OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of tens of thousands of women and their families. In 2012, over 22,000 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Tragically, 15,500 will die from this disease. Ovarian cancer is the deadliest gynecological cancer among American women.

This September, we recognize Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, honoring those who have battled cancer—and those who continue to struggle with the disease. Their courage is an inspiration to all of us and a reminder that together, we can beat ovarian cancer.

With early diagnosis, ovarian cancer is survivable. Over 95% of women who detect ovarian cancer during the early stages of the disease defeat the disease. By learning the symptoms, checking their family histories and visiting with their doctors, women can detect ovarian cancer before it's too late.

No one and no family should have to face ovarian cancer without the knowledge necessary to detect and defeat it. Along with my fellow Congressmen and citizens, I am proud to have helped fight ovarian cancer. In 2005, I joined my colleagues to create a federal educational campaign for gynecological cancer, urging the Center for Disease Control and the Office of Women's Health to cooperate with non-profits to raise cancer awareness among women and health practitioners.

That year, I also successfully introduced Johanna's Law. In memory of Johanna Silver, who lost her life to cancer after a three and a half month battle with ovarian cancer, Johanna's Law has helped increase awareness of gynecological cancers.

I urge all members to recognize and remember Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and the impact of cancer upon our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to congratulate Zion Lutheran Church on its 175th Anniversary. On September 30th, Zion Lutheran Church will celebrate its legacy of faith and service.

Founded in 1837, Zion Lutheran Church is the second oldest established church in the State of Illinois. Spanning three different centuries, Zion Lutheran Church has helped make Bensenville a better place to live, learn, and worship. Members of the Zion Lutheran Church community have helped share the grace of God with others by helping establish 11 additional Lutheran churches in DuPage County. Over the years, Zion Lutheran Church has brought hope and fellowship to countless individuals and families.

Zion-Concord Lutheran School is also commemorating its 156th Anniversary this year. Since its inception, Zion-Concord Lutheran School has succeeded in its mission to provide families with a high quality Christian education and to nurture and enrich its students through the teaching of Holy Scripture.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing these significant milestones for the Zion Lutheran Church and Zion-Concord Lutheran School, and in wishing them many more years of achievement and faithful service. May God bless the congregation on this special occasion.

SUPPORT OF OVARIAN CANCER MONTH

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for women and families affected by ovarian cancer. In 2012, it is estimated that approximately 22,280 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and 15,500 will die of the disease. In Iowa alone an estimated 190 women will die from ovarian cancer this year. Too many American women—sisters, daughters, nieces, wives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers—are losing their lives to this disease.

Ovarian cancer is the ninth most common cancer among women and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths, making it the deadliest of gynecologic cancers. If ovarian cancer is treated before it spreads, the five-year survival rate is 93 percent. Currently, only 15 percent of ovarian cancers are found at such an early stage and overall the relative five-year survival rate is 46 percent. I urge my

colleagues to help make women aware of the potential warning signs to prevent future deaths.

September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month—an important time during which ovarian cancer organizations, advocates, and others will be helping to raise awareness about the disease and its symptoms. As a member of the bipartisan House Cancer Caucus, I urge my colleagues and their staff to join me in recognizing September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and to join us year round in working to increase public knowledge about this deadly disease and work towards a cure.

TAIWAN OBSERVER STATUS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as one of the Co-Chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I rise in strong support of S. Con. Res. 17. I particularly want to commend Chairwoman ROS-LEHTINEN and Ranking Member BERMAN for bringing this concurrent resolution to the floor. Additionally, I would like to applaud the work and leadership of our other Co-Chairs—Ms. BERKLEY of Nevada, Mr. DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia—for their work supporting our relationship with Taiwan.

Since its inception in 1947, the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, has been a great resource for the international community to develop and foster the most efficient and safest means of airline travel across the world. In the aftermath of the horrific terrorist attacks 11 years ago today on September 11, 2001, it was the ICAO that convened a conference to endorse a uniform international strategy to ensure aviation safety throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, our friends in Taiwan have been excluded from participation in the ICAO since 1971. Not only has that diminished Taiwan's ability to stay at the cutting edge of aviation, it has also presented obstacles to the international community as a whole because the ICAO cannot completely fulfill its mission to meet the needs of all people in efficient and safe air travel.

Taiwan has a very large footprint within commercial aviation that warrants its inclusion within the ICAO. The Taipei Flight Information Region covers airspace of 176,000 square nautical miles and provides air traffic control services to over 1.3 million flights annually. Additionally, there are over 174,000 international flights carrying more than 35 million passengers that fly in and out of Taiwan each year. With this high volume of air traffic, Taiwan certainly deserves to have a seat at the table of the ICAO—at least as an observer.

Mr. Speaker, this is precisely what this concurrent resolution seeks to accomplish. Providing Taiwan with meaningful participation at the ICAO only benefits both the Taiwanese and the international community as a whole. Due to our longstanding relationship and respect for our friends in Taiwan, I urge all of my colleagues to support S. Con. Res. 17.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME DU LAC ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 170 YEARS IN SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today joined by members of the Indiana delegation, Senators DAN COATS and RICHARD LUGAR, Representatives LARRY BUCSHON, DAN BURTON, ANDRÉ CARSON, MIKE PENCE, TODD ROKITA, MARLIN STUTZMAN, PETE VISCLOSKY, AND TODD YOUNG to honor The University of Notre Dame du Lac on the occasion of its 170 years in South Bend, Indiana. The University has made significant contributions to the United States of America since its founding in 1842 by Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C. Fortified by a deep faith in God and an unwavering commitment to the common good, the University has impacted the Nation's history, its educational accomplishments, and its outreach and ministry to the vulnerable and the poor.

As Fr. Sorin sought to bridge the education gap in the expanding frontier, he began a history that intertwined with and influenced the history of our Nation. During World War II, Notre Dame established a Naval center that trained 12,000 officers in South Bend, Indiana, an episode that is commemorated yearly in a respectful football rivalry.

Notre Dame has been a leader in promoting diversity in higher education and American culture, especially the pioneering work of Fr. Theodore Hesburgh as the guiding voice of the Civil Rights Commission that crafted the framework to end segregation with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. An association with the Peace Corps goes back to the agency's founding in 1961, when the first volunteers were trained on campus under the strong support of Fr. Hesburgh; since then, more than 800 Notre Dame graduates have entered the Peace Corps, more than from any other Catholic college or university.

Notre Dame's dedication to educational excellence is reflected in its highly ranked Mendoza College of Business and Law School in addition to a well-regarded School of Architecture. Its research programs have made great contributions to national science and health over the years, ranging from the discovery of synthetic rubber by Fr. Julius Nieuwland in the 1920's to the mapping of the mosquito genome in this century as a way to prevent the spread of malaria and other diseases. More recently, the Nuclear Science Laboratory began construction on a new nuclear accelerator, the first accelerator the National Science Foundation has funded in nuclear physics in nearly a quarter century.

The University encourages research and innovation as evidenced by Innovation Park at Notre Dame which connects aspiring innovators with Notre Dame faculty, students and resources, collaborates with industry experts, and supports entrepreneurs.

Notre Dame continues to build on its inspiring legacy of service which has left a positive and lasting impact on the soul of this Nation for over 170 years. Its Summer Service Learning Program has provided some 4,000 undergraduate students with a scholarship to perform eight weeks of community service in the communities of Notre Dame alumni clubs across the Nation. The Alliance for Catholic Education, ACE, sends nearly 200 recent graduates each year to teach in about 100 understaffed Catholic schools across the country.

The administrators, faculty, students and graduates, have provided leadership that has helped shape our Nation—and the world—with approximately eighty percent (80%) of Notre Dame students active in social service each year through the University's Center for Social Concerns. In addition, the Notre Dame family contributes more than 400,000 hours of volunteer service each academic year.

The University's mission is to cultivate in its students not only an appreciation for the great achievements of human beings, but also a love of God and a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice, and oppression that burden the lives of so many. Its aim is to create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice. Notre Dame makes our Nation stronger and deserves our deepest appreciation.

Once again, we offer congratulations to the University of Notre Dame and join the Northern Indiana Center for History as they celebrate Notre Dame's 170 years of vision, leadership, and engagement in the community, the State, the country, and the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF J.R. ''DICK'' BIRDWELL

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to J.R. "Dick" Birdwell, a proud lifelong Aggie and former City Councilman of College Station, Texas, and Mayor and City Councilman of Lake Jackson, Texas. He passed on April 4th at the age of 81, only two days after he and his beloved wife Joyce celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary.

Dick Birdwell was born in Stephenville and moved to College Station in 1945. He graduated from A&M Consolidated High School and went on to receive his undergraduate and masters degrees from Texas A&M University. While at A&M he was a member of the Ross Volunteers and a battalion commander in the Corps of Cadets.

Birdwell was a longtime Dow Chemical Company employee in Houston; Brisbane, Australia; Lake Jackson, Texas; and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After retiring he returned to College Station.

Mayor Birdwell served the citizens of Lake Jackson as Councilman and Mayor from 1979 to 1982, he also served as Councilman of College Station for three terms, serving two consecutive terms from 1988 to 1992, and a third term from 1996 to 1998.

While serving on City Council, Birdwell was known to extensively study the issues and was not shy about expressing his ideas. He was always well prepared for council meetings and showed pride in serving his community.

While residing in College Station, Birdwell would begin to serve his community through numerous engineering organizations, as a mediator for the Dispute Resolution Agency of

Brazos County, as an active member of the Rotary Club of College Station, and as a docent for both the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum and the Texas A&M Sports Museum.

Even after leaving City Council, Birdwell would take on other city causes such as a petition drive that led to freezing property taxes for senior citizens and the disabled. He would also serve on the cemetery board and as an alternate member of the zoning board of adjustments.

College Station Mayor Nancy Berry may have said it best when she described the passing of Dick Birdwell as ''a phenomenal loss for our community.''

Today I pay tribute to a great Aggie who served College Station with honor and great respect. I know I am not alone as I say thank you, Dick Birdwell, for all that you have done for the Aggie community.

SUPPORT OF HOME HEALTH CARE

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for home health care providers and care givers. As we look for ways to ensure that Medicare remains solvent in the years to come and continues to provide affordable, quality health care to our nation's seniors, it is important to highlight those initiatives that are currently working well and saving money for the program.

Studies have shown that home health care services have saved Medicare $2.8 billion dollars over three years. This is because it is often less expensive to care for Medicare beneficiaries in their own homes than a skilled nursing facility or hospital setting. Further, quality care at home can prevent these more costly and intrusive interventions in the first place, as well as prevent repeat hospitalizations.

Home health care also provides a more convenient and comfortable standard of living both for those receiving care and their families. The advantage of being home with your loved ones can make the world of difference in positive health outcomes. This is particularly important in rural areas like many parts of my district, where there often are fewer providers and choices when it comes to nursing care.

As we work to find cost savings, it is important to keep in mind that home health care providers deliver quality, effective health care to our seniors and helps to keep Medicare costs down.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT DEMOCRATIC CLUB

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the members of the Hammond, Indiana Franklin D. Roosevelt Democratic Club as they celebrate the organization's 80th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Club will be hosting an anniversary banquet on September 15, 2012 at the Restaurant at Lost Marsh in Hammond, Indiana.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Club of Hammond, Indiana was founded by forty-two members of Polish ancestry on December 3, 1932. The Club has grown over the years, and currently consists of 110 members. The mission of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Club is to ''maintain high standards and secure the best possible candidate for the Democratic Party.'' Since its inception, club members have selflessly given their time and support to the community of Northwest Indiana. The residents of Northwest Indiana truly benefit from the Club's ''Candidates' Night,'' which is held the week before each primary and general election. This is an outstanding opportunity for voters to meet candidates and discuss with them the needs of their community. For their significant contributions to upholding the ideals of the democratic process in their communities and throughout Northwest Indiana, the members and leaders of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Club are to be highly commended.

The dedication and generosity of the Club and its members has also been evidenced over the years by their innumerable charitable acts to those in need throughout the broader community, irrespective of their political beliefs. I also must acknowledge the sheer kindness the members of the Club show to all.

I still fondly recall the first Franklin D. Roosevelt Club meeting I attended in March of 1983. I didn't know anyone in the Club when I entered St. Casimir Hall. But through the graciousness of the late President Ed Nawracaj and his wife, Sophie, as well as Wally and Paula Skibinski, Dorrie Kometz, and many others, I was welcomed as a lifelong friend and left the hall ''knowing everyone.''

The warmth a ''total stranger'' enjoyed that evening, and many to follow, remain forever in this Member's heart.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge the 2012 Franklin D. Roosevelt Club officers. They are: President Gregory J. Sanchez, First Vice President Kay Pucalik, Second Vice President Leslie Stanish, Secretary Barney Stodola, Treasurer Mary T. Hildebranski, Sergeant at Arms Brian Krupinski, Chaplain Reverend Stephen D. Kosinski, and Trustees Diana Beyer, Joe Scasny, and Rosemary Wojdyla.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the members of the Hammond, Indiana Franklin D. Roosevelt Democratic Club on the 80th anniversary of their organization. The work of this truly admirable organization is a great asset to the people of Northwest Indiana, and for their selfless service, the leadership and members of the Club are worthy of the highest praise, and I am proud to serve as their representative in Washington, D.C.

REMEMBERING ANN ARNOLD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ann Arnold. After a decades-long battle with leukemia, she passed away earlier this month at the age of 67. Ms. Arnold is the longtime president and CEO of the Texas Association of Broadcasters, and served as the press secretary to former Texas Governor Mark White.

Ms. Arnold was always fascinated by the media and its ability to uncover the truth. She founded her junior high school newspaper and moonlighted for community newspapers, covering evening city council and school board meetings. In 1968, she earned a journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin. To pay her way through college, Ms. Arnold worked three jobs; including working at the Capitol Bureau of the Dallas Times-Herald. In 1966, she received the Headlines Award.

After graduation, Ms. Arnold joined the Capitol Bureau of United Press International. That same year she married her high-school sweetheart, Reg Arnold. In 1980, Ms. Arnold joined the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's Capitol staff. In 1983, she became the press secretary for Governor Mark White, the first Texas woman in history to hold the position.

Shortly after Governor White lost his bid for re-election to a second term, Ms. Arnold was diagnosed with leukemia. Although she was told that she only had six months to two years to live, twenty years later, and after an experimental treatment at Houston's M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Ms. Arnold was still going strong and became an icon of hope statewide.

As executive director of the Texas Association of Broadcasters, and through her work at the Texas Capitol, before Congress and the Federal Communications Commission, Ms. Arnold was influential in helping broadcasters achieve a positive business climate in Texas. Ms. Arnold also positioned the Texas Association of Broadcasters as a primary defender of Texas' open government laws and was repeatedly recognized for her achievements on behalf of the industry. In 2001, she received the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas' James Madison Award with then Attorney General JOHN CORNYN.

During her tenure at the Texas Association of Broadcasters, Ms. Arnold doubled station membership, expanded an array of member services for stations, recruited top professional staff, and oversaw the construction of the association's permanent home just blocks from the Texas Capitol. In 2007, Ms. Arnold received the Texas Association of Broadcasters' ''Lifetime Achievement Award''.

Ms. Arnold's successes with the broadcast industry and local communities throughout Texas have strengthened the communities she worked with and her passion and dedication will certainly be missed. I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to Ms. Arnold's family and friends.

MAJOR DONALD HOLLEDER

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Donald Holleder, Major, United States Army.

Donald Holleder was born on August 3, 1934, in Buffalo, New York. He was an outstanding high school athlete, and was sought

after by some of America's most prestigious universities. But Donald Holleder chose to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, even forgoing a National Football League draft selection by the New York Giants in 1956 to serve as an officer in the Army.

Don Holleder was, by nature, a selfless man who subordinated himself to the greater good of the team, whether that team was on the football field or the field of battle. He was the embodiment of a true leader, willing to endure personal sacrifice so that others could succeed, even at risk to his own personal safety.

Major Holleder's actions in Vietnam on the morning of October 17th, 1967 at the Battle of Ong Thanh were unparalleled in their bravery. According to eyewitness accounts documented in the Army's recommendation for award, his actions to save wounded soldiers under enemy fire were above and beyond the call of duty. After several requests to be permitted to assist his men, the Brigade Commander relented and gave his approval. Having voluntarily gone outside the perimeter, armed with only a .45 caliber pistol and advised of the peril he faced, he ran several times into no-man's land, risking his own life to save others. Stabilizing a rapidly deteriorating situation and reestablishing command, this Brigade staff officer saved many lives before he was mortally wounded.

On April 27th, 2012, Major Donald Holleder was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in recognition of his sacrifice. His actions were indeed so notable and involved risk of life so extraordinary that he clearly deserves to be set apart from his comrades, exemplifying the timeless values of courage and sacrifice that this award is intended to honor.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENABLE AMERICA

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Enable America, a first of its kind organization entirely dedicated to reducing unemployment among people with disabilities. This organization has assisted countless people with disabilities in finding a job and the belief that ''good things happen when people have jobs'' underpins their efforts.

Enable America was founded by Richard Salem, a man intimately familiar with the disabled community. After losing his eyesight as a teenager, Richard's parents were the main drivers behind his continued inclusion in the public high school system, which later allowed him to graduate cum laude from Belmont Abbey College. In pursuing a law degree, he was the first blind student to attend Duke Law School, graduating with distinction in 1972. Now, 40 years later, Richard is not only a successful lawyer, as the founding partner of the Tampa-based Salem Law group, he is also a tireless advocate for those living with disabilities and life-changing diseases.

Knowing that the support he received was one of the keys to his success, Richard founded Enable America in 2002 as a nonprofit organization that is focused on increasing employment among the 54 million Americans with disabilities, including wounded warriors and disabled veterans. With more than 70 percent of adults with disabilities wanting to work so that they can live independently, the programs that Enable America has developed helps them to achieve this goal. Enable America's committed staff knows that having a job gives people ''self-esteem, independence and pride. They have a place in the community and are able to grow and become their own person.''

In assisting people with disabilities to find a job, Enable America directly confronts the misinformation or misunderstandings about the disabled community, which often hinders people with disabilities from finding employment. Enable America's two-pronged approach was developed specifically to help connect the disabled community with the business community. First, they host Community Connection Meetings across the nation, which assist with the creation of a national information-sharing network comprised of local community task forces devoted to eliminating the barriers to employment for disabled individuals. Second, Enable America hosts a series of meetings with business leaders, managers, resource professionals and speakers to encourage prospective employers to hire disabled job seekers by demonstrating the many benefits of hiring disabled employees and by answering questions that businesses may have about issues such as personnel policies, taxes and insurance.

Beyond connecting people with disabilities with business leaders, Enable America also provides disability employee mentoring. This program provides people with disabilities with real-world experience in the workplace by matching mentees with business mentors that are looking to improve diversity and increase employment opportunities. Today, I have the privilege to host one of these mentees in my Washington, D.C. office. William ''Bill'' Rockwood, who is currently pursuing a law degree at Georgetown, does not allow his learning disability to stop him from embracing new experiences and taking advantage of opportunities when they come along. Programs like Enable America, which offered Bill a unique mentoring opportunity, not only provide an irreplaceable experience for the mentees, but also afford mentors an impactful look at the contributions they can make in any work environment.

Finally, Enable America assists our wounded warriors as they return to active duty or civilian life. These brave men and women who have served our country in combat deserve all the assistance that we can provide. Military service members, past and present, possess a great sense of honor and traits any employer would find valuable—duty, commitment, and loyalty. Enable America honors their service and sacrifice by showing businesses that investing in our nation's veterans and honoring their service to our nation is not charity, but a smart decision.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see this organization is truly making a difference in the lives of those living with disabilities. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing this important milestone and to wish Enable America continued success in the future.

HONORING LT COL KRISTINE SWAIN FOR 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Kristine Swain for her 21 years of dedicated service to our great country. Lt Col Swain graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1991, and a year later earned her Master of Arts in Russian studies from the University of Kansas. During Lt Col Swain's 21 years of exceptional service she has served in South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Alaska, England, Kosovo, Italy, and Belgium.

During Lt Col Swain's three year assignment in Brussels she authored position papers for use by both the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State for negotiations dealing with the Russian incursion into Georgia. She was awarded her second Defense Meritorious Service Medal in part for translating complex and delicate guidance into concrete NATO policy and action. Lt Col Swain is currently serving as associate professor of history at the Air Force Academy where she has authored a new course in Russian history and co-authored an innovative senior level course on the Cold War. We are all indebted to the selfless service members such as Lt Col Swain and many others who courageously defend our great nation.

IN HONOR OF JULIAN ROGERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Julian Rogers, a member of the Cuyahoga County Council serving the Tenth District.

Councilman Rogers was elected to the Cuyahoga County Council in 2010 and currently chairs the Environment and Sustainability Committee. He is also the current Executive Director of Education Voters Ohio, a statewide, nonprofit organization that works to improve the quality of public education throughout Ohio.

Prior to serving the residents of Cuyahoga County, Councilman Rogers worked as the senior assistant to the Chief Executive Officer at the Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD) for a span of seven years. During that time, he also served as a Liaison to the Office of the Mayor for five years. Preceding his work with the CMSD and City of Cleveland, Rogers worked on Mary Boyle's campaign for the U.S. Senate, as a Regional Director for America Coming Together, served as a delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention, co-founded Blue 88 and served as Field Director for the Cuyahoga County Arts and Culture levy which helps provide over $16 million a year to support arts and culture in the community. Additionally he has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority in 2006 and 2009,

and has served as a Program Associate for Public Policy and Research for the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture.

Councilman Rogers is the recipient of several awards and honors including the Emerging Leader Award bestowed upon him by Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones and the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus in 2006 and Congresswoman Marcia Fudge in 2009.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Julian Rogers, a dedicated member of the Cuyahoga County Council.

CONGRATULATING THE BAY AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bay Area Community Foundation on obtaining their National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations accreditation from the Community Foundations Standards Board.

The Community Foundations National Standards Board was established as a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations, a nonprofit membership association of grant making foundations and corporations, to administer the National Standards. This board is responsible for upholding the quality, value, and integrity of the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, the first and only accreditation program of its kind.

In the United States, community foundations serve tens of thousands of donors, administer more than $40 billion in charitable funds, and address the core concerns of more than 700 communities and regions. With such a presence—nationally and within local communities—comes responsibility.

Achieving confirmation and reconfirming compliance with National Standards is a rigorous process, guaranteeing that every community foundation that receives the designation has adhered to excellent philanthropic practice. This program requires community foundations to document their policies for governance, donor services, investments, grantmaking, community leadership, and administration.

The Bay Area Community Foundation of Bay City, Michigan has obtained its National Standards accreditation by demonstrating a commitment to operational quality, integrity, accountability, and adherence to the highest standards for grantmaking.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Bay Area Community Foundation on receiving its National Standards accreditation and in commending the foundation's dedicated service to Bay City and other communities in Michigan.

IN HONOR OF PERNEL JONES, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Pernel Jones, Jr., a member of the Cuyahoga County Council serving the Eighth District.

Councilman Jones attended the Baltimore Polytechnic Institutes in 1989 and later received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland in 1991. In 1992, he was named as a Licensed Funeral Director. He currently acts as the Director of Community Relations for the Pernel Jones and Sons Funeral Home which has been offering services to the Greater Cleveland area since 1973.

Councilman Jones was elected to the Cuyahoga County Council in 2010 and is the current Chair of the Public Works and Contracting Committee. He is a strong advocate of retaining jobs and promoting the creation of new jobs. He believes in promoting trust and confidence in the local government though effective and accountable leadership, and he intends to maintain the moral and legal obligations of the charter government, so that they may provide the best possible social service to the community at hand.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Pernel Jones, Jr., a dedicated member of the Cuyahoga County Council.

NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. This is an important time to raise awareness about the disease and its symptoms. In 2012, it is estimated that approximately 22,280 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and 15,500 will die of the disease.

Ovarian cancer is the ninth most common cancer among women and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths, making it the deadliest gynecologic cancer. If ovarian cancer is treated before it spreads outside the ovary, the five-year survival rate is 93 percent. Currently, only 15 percent of ovarian cancers are found at such an early stage and overall the five-year survival rate is 46 percent.

I urge my colleagues to help make women aware of the potential warning signs to prevent future deaths. Experts recommend that women see a gynecologist if they experience any of the often subtle symptoms of ovarian cancer daily for more than a few weeks. Four major symptoms of ovarian cancer include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, and frequent or urgent need to urinate. I ask all of my colleagues to become familiar with these symptoms and to share the information with their friends, family, staff, and constituents.

Because no ovarian cancer screening or early detection test exists, organizations such as the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance stress that "until there's a test, awareness is best." I commend the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance for its steadfast commitment to make women aware of the risk factors, signs, and symptoms of ovarian cancer and for its advocacy on behalf of women and families touched by this devastating disease.

I also want to mention a few very important federal programs that are providing hope to those with ovarian cancer. The National Cancer Institute, NCI, at the National Institutes of Health does crucial research work in all areas of cancer, including ovarian cancer. These efforts will hopefully one day lead to breakthroughs that reduce ovarian cancer incidence, mortality, and morbidity. NCI has more than 550 active research projects on ovarian cancer in its cancer research portfolio.

Another important program is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Ovarian Cancer Control Initiative. This initiative works to coordinate and fund health activities working toward early detection and improved treatment options. CDC also plays a critical role in disseminating information about ovarian cancer risk factors, signs, and symptoms to women, health professionals, and the public. It is imperative that these programs continue to receive adequate funding in order to perform basic research and then translate that research into results for women with or at-risk for this terrible disease.

I encourage all Members of Congress and staff to join me this month in bringing greater awareness to ovarian cancer and to help educate the women in your life about the risk factors, signs, and symptoms of ovarian cancer. Together we can help save lives from ovarian cancer.

IN HONOR OF C. ELLEN CONNALLY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of C. Ellen Connally, a member of the Cuyahoga County Council serving the Ninth District.

Councilwoman Connally graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University, a master's degree and Juris Doctorate from Cleveland State University, and is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Akron. She has served as a Visiting and Adjunct Professor at the University of Akron College of Law and is a former President of the Board of Trustees of Bowling Green State University.

Before representing the Ninth District of Cuyahoga County, Councilwoman Connally was a law clerk in the Eighth District Court of Appeals in Ohio, a Magistrate in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, Probate Division, and was subsequently elected to the Cleveland Municipal Court. She served the court as Judge for 24 years. She was the first female, African-American Democrat elected to the Bench in Ohio and the first to be elected without first being appointed. In addition to her position as Judge, Councilwoman Connally has also served as a Special Prosecutor for the City of Cleveland and Foreman of the Cuyahoga County General Jury.

Councilwoman Connally was elected to the Cuyahoga County Council in 2010. She is the current President of the Cuyahoga County Council. She shares her time representing the Ninth District with other various roles in her community, including serving as President of the Board of Trustees of the Breast Cancer Fund of Ohio and the Vice President of the Board of Community Action Against Addiction.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring C. Ellen Connally, President of the

Cuyahoga County Council, who is dedicated to serving the citizens of Cuyahoga County.

COMMENDING NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED TOP PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN NEW JERSEY

LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend New Providence High School on being named the top public high school in New Jersey by New Jersey Monthly Magazine. This is an accomplishment of which the school and the community should be very proud.

New Providence High School has been a model of success. It has been continually ranked among the top public schools in the state for its high test scores and curriculum. New Providence High School has excelled in nearly every major aspect of students' education with fine teachers and a supportive staff. New Providence High School was named a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education. This is the highest honor a school can receive in the Nation.

New Providence High School has truly executed the school district's motto ''Dedicated to Excellence.'' I congratulate the students, faculty members, parents and members of the community for these outstanding distinctions.

IN HONOR OF JACK H. SCHRON, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jack H. Schron, Jr., a member of the Cuyahoga County Council serving the Sixth District.

Councilman Schron graduated in 1970 from Florida Southern College with a Bachelor of Science degree and received his Juris Doctorate in 1975 from Ohio Northern University. Following his licensure to practice law in both Ohio and Florida, Councilman Schron served in the United States Army legal corps, from which he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 28 years of service.

In addition to his military service, the Councilman has also acted as President and Chief Executive Officer of Jergens, Inc. for over 25 years while also co-founding Tooling University—an internet education business. In addition to his professional career, Schron served a twelve year tenure on the Chagrin Falls Board of Education and was a member of the Clean Ohio Council, the Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network, and Wire-net—an economic development organization that works to serve manufacturing businesses in the Cleveland, Ohio area.

Elected to the Cuyahoga County Council in 2010, Councilman Schron is Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Committee.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Jack Schron, a dedicated member of the Cuyahoga County Council.

ON THE TRAGIC SIKH TEMPLE SHOOTING

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to stand in solidarity with the families as well as the victims of the Sikh Temple shooting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which took place on Sunday, August 5, 2012.

Six people were killed and four wounded, including a police officer, in this horrific violence as people sought to peacefully worship with family and neighbors in their sanctuary. Observation and practice of one's religion should be inviolate, but on that fateful Sunday, it was so heinously violated.

While what causes someone to do such a dastardly deed will remain a mystery to all, faith will console where reason cannot. We can find some solace in the heroism displayed by those in the line of fire, who as ordinary citizens and first-responders risked their lives and limbs to protect others.

The shooter, blinded by ignorance and hate, underestimated the strength and resolve of the Sikh community. Upon hearing of the shooting, Sikh congregations around the country dedicated their services to the victims of the shooting. The Sikh community will overcome this tragedy and we as a country will support them because what impacts them directly impacts all indirectly.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES M. GERMANA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Charles M. ''Chuck'' Germana, a member of the Cuyahoga County Council serving the Fourth District.

In 1971, Councilman Germana began a career as an Independent Insurance Agent with the Four Star Insurance Agency in Parma, Ohio and has continued his work with the agency since then. He has been a 32-year Board member, Treasurer, and two-time President of the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce. He has been an active member of the Northeast Ohio City Council Association having served as a Board member, Treasurer, Vice President and President. He is also actively involved in the Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation.

Since being elected to the Cuyahoga County Council in 2010, Councilman Germana has been named the Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations and Collaboration Committee and has advocated for a charter government that inspires confidence in the electorate through an open, ethical, transparent and fair manner of holding all meetings and transactions.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Chuck Germana, a dedicated member of the Cuyahoga County Council.

WVOW RADIO 60 YEARS OF SERVICE IN LOGAN COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of a local radio station in the heart of the coalfields of southern West Virginia. This year, WVOW Radio celebrates 60 years of excellence in journalism and service to the greater Logan County area and beyond.

In 1954, Mr. Bill Becker, an attorney, and his lovely wife, Mrs. Martha Jane Becker, an educator, took on the management of a struggling two-year old AM radio station in Logan County. Not only did they take on the management of the station, but they put their heart and soul into the daily operation of this station, often adding their personal touches to the programming, advertisements, and live-remotes. In fact, many of my constituents can fondly recall WVOW's annual Christmas programming, ''Santa Claus'', in which Bill and Martha Jane added their very own personal touch.

You see, in rural West Virginia, our local media, especially local radio, play a critical role in our communities. Yes, they are known for their music, sports, and commercials, but more importantly, and maybe less noticed, is the invaluable service this station has provided to its listeners in literally saving lives.

For instance, when an earthen dam broke in the Buffalo Creek area of Logan County in February of 1972, WVOW was the first to warn nearby residents to evacuate their homes immediately, undoubtedly saving countless lives from the wake of destruction that loomed near. Also, during this summer's widespread derecho and heat wave that swept through my Congressional District, WVOW was a victim of the mass power outages that we all experienced. However, they knew they had the obligation to their listeners to get back on the air and pass along critical, potentially life-saving, information. Through their hard work and sheer determination, the station was able to get back on the air and provide the much needed information to their audiences.

While these are just two examples of the essential role WVOW has played in our communities through their history, there are countless other stories of how, through news coverage and public service announcements, they have kept citizens informed and helped raise public consciousness on a variety of quality of life issues.

In an era where mega media corporations are chasing the all-mighty dollar, WVOW has remained steadfast to Bill and Martha Jane Becker's philosophy—first aired 60 years ago—a rock solid commitment to always serve their even-more-all-mighty listeners, first and foremost.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in wishing a Happy 60th Birthday to WVOW Radio in Logan, West Virginia, and to extend our best wishes to their dedicated and talented staff for 60 more productive and blessed years!

IN HONOR OF SUNNY M. SIMON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sunny M. Simon, a member of the Cuyahoga County Council serving the Eleventh District.

Councilwoman Simon earned her Bachelor of Science Degree with Honors from John Carroll University and her Juris Doctorate with Honors from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law. She owns a private law practice, is a member of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association as a part of the Family Law section, and has served as a volunteer magistrate for Juvenile Court in South Euclid.

Councilwoman Simon was elected to the South Euclid City Council in 1999 where she not only served on the Finance, Legislative, Safety, Public Utilities, Planning and Zoning Committees, but also served as Council President.

Now as a member of the Cuyahoga County Council, she is serving as the Vice-President of the Council and the Chair of the Justice Affairs Committee. Councilwoman Simon is a strong supporter of the development of community policing initiatives, of strong services for senior residents, and of conservation, sustainability, and smart land use initiatives. She is also the founder of the South Euclid Humane Society and the South Euclid dog park.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Sunny Simon, a dedicated member of the Cuyahoga County Council.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. In 2012 alone, it is estimated that roughly 22,280 American women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer; and 15,500 will die from this insidious disease. Because most women are diagnosed in later stages of the disease, ovarian cancer has the highest mortality rate of all types of gynecological cancer, and it is the fifth-leading cause of cancer death among women. In fact, the five year survival rate is only 45 percent—not much higher than when the War on Cancer was declared 41 years ago!

The word ''cancer'' evokes powerful emotions. Along with many of my colleagues, I know firsthand how devastating cancer can be to the individual who has been diagnosed as well as their family. Throughout September, all across the Nation, men and women will come together for events to both raise awareness of this terrible scourge and to show their support for the women and families struggling with this horrible disease. When September ends though, the fight against ovarian cancer will go on.

Without a reliable screening test, our greatest weapon against this disease is awareness. If your mother, aunt, sister, wife or daughter experiences any of the following symptoms for more than a few weeks, strongly urge her to talk with her doctor or gynecologist immediately: bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, frequent or urgent need to urinate.

If everyone in this chamber learns and shares these symptoms with just one person, and asks that person to pass the information forward to just one other person; and so on, and so on; we can spare thousands of women and their families the extraordinary suffering that comes with a late-stage cancer diagnosis. The more women and health professionals know about the symptoms and risk factors associated with ovarian cancer the more lives that can be saved.

Our ultimate goal, however, should be the complete eradication of this disease. Research holds the key to identifying better treatments for ovarian cancer, as well as the development of a critically-needed screening test.

The Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Research Program plays a key role in supporting unique ovarian cancer research and has already seen some breakthroughs in the fight against ovarian cancer. Adequate funding will allow the program to maintain current research and expand innovative investigations into much-needed early detection and screening or early detection tools.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the National Institutes of Health does crucial research work in all areas of cancer, including ovarian cancer. These efforts will hopefully one day lead to breakthroughs that reduce ovarian cancer incidence, mortality, and morbidity. NCI has more than 550 active research projects on ovarian cancer in its cancer research portfolio. Additionally, NCI supports the Gynecologic Oncology Group, which promotes clinical and basic research, and four ovarian cancer Specialized Programs of Research Excellence, or SPOREs, to focus on translational research and turning scientific discoveries into applicable solutions or treatments.

Finally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Ovarian Cancer Control Initiative works to coordinate and fund health activities working toward early detection and improved treatment options. CDC also plays a critical role in disseminating information about ovarian cancer risk factors, signs, and symptoms to women, health professionals, and the public.

We owe it to the women in our lives to fund the research necessary to purge this threat of cancer entirely. I fully understand the financial challenges facing our country, but I believe it is imperative that these programs continue to receive adequate funding in order to perform basic research and then translate that research into results for women with or at-risk for this terrible disease.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month; and to wear Teal—the official color for ovarian cancer, like pink is for breast cancer, throughout September to show your support.

IN HONOR OF YVONNE CONWELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Yvonne Conwell, a member of the Cuyahoga County Council serving the Seventh District.

Upon graduating from Cleveland State University, Councilwoman Conwell has spent her time serving others, especially families and children. She has served at Parmadale, an organization that provides support to at-risk children, including those that may be severely emotionally disturbed and with Jewish Family Services assisting those with diagnosed developmental disabilities. Professionally, Conwell has worked for Cleveland Healthcare for the Homeless (now known as Care Alliance), at Bridgeway, Inc. providing case management to fifty individuals facing mental and physical challenges, and at Oriana House helping coordinate services for individuals re-entering the community after incarceration. Councilwoman Conwell also served five years as the Director of Outreach for the Cuyahoga County Recorder's office.

Together with her husband, Councilwoman Conwell donates much of her time to helping support local food drives and festivals whose admissions are food items for the needy, activities known as ''Harvest for Hunger.'' The Conwells have also established a charity of their own, ''Operation Helping Hands of Greater Cleveland''—an organization with the mission of providing needy families with infant items, clothing, and financial support.

Now as a representative of the Seventh District of the Cuyahoga County Council, Councilwoman Conwell serves as the Chair of the Human Resources, Procurement, Appointments, and Equity Committee.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Yvonne Conwell, a dedicated member of the Cuyahoga County Council.

HONORING NEA JAZZ MASTER JIMMY HEATH

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, legendary jazz artist Jimmy Heath will be honored this year by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, CBCF, at the Jazz Issue Forum and Concert that will take place during the 42nd Annual Legislative Conference, ALC. Mr. Heath will also perform at the concert, which will take place on Thursday, September 20, 2012, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, DC. Mr. Heath will receive the 2012 CBCF ALC Jazz Legacy Award for his six decades of contributions to jazz and world culture.

The oldest living member of the Philadelphia-bred Heath Brothers jazz family (bassist Percy and drummer Albert); Jimmy Heath rose to prominence during the forties, as a member of the Howard McGhee Big Band. In 1948 at the age of 21, he performed in the First International Jazz Festival in Paris with McGhee,

sharing the stage with Coleman Hawkins, Slam Stewart, and Erroll Garner. One of the earliest of Mr. Heath's own big bands (1947–48) in Philadelphia included John Coltrane, Benny Golson, Specs Wright, Cal Massey, Johnny Coles, Ray Bryant, and Nelson Boyd. He also played with and composed for Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Kenny Dorham, Milt Jackson, and Art Blakey. During his career, Mr. Heath has performed on more than 100 record albums, including 7 with The Heath Brothers and 12 as a leader. He has also written more than 125 compositions, many of which have become jazz standards, including C.T.A., and Gingerbread Boy. He has minted over 20 critically acclaimed recordings, including Really Big!, Love and Understanding, New Picture, Little Man, Big Band, and Endurance.

Mr. Heath first worked as an educator with Jazzmobile, New York City's premier not-for-profit jazz program. In 1987, he was appointed Professor of Music at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, City University of New York. Professor Heath created the Jazz Program at Queens College, where he taught and mentored a generation of musicians, before retiring in 2004. He also taught jazz at Housatonic College and The New School for Social Research. In October 1997, two of Mr. Heath's former students, trumpeters Darren Barrett and Diego Urcola, placed first and second in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition.

Mr. Heath is among the most honored of our nation's musicians. In 2003, he was presented with the prestigious National Endowment for the Arts, NEA, Jazz Master Award. He is the recipient of three honorary doctorates, including one from Julliard. He is the first jazz musician to be so honored by Julliard and has also received The Julliard Service to the Arts Centennial Award. He has received 3 Grammy Nominations, Howard University's Benny Golson Award and The Thelonious Monk Founder's Award among many other honors.

In 2010, he co-wrote I Walked With Giants: The Autobiography of Jimmy Heath, with Joseph McLaren (Temple University Press). Mr. Heath is still actively creative as a tenor and soprano saxophonist, composer and arranger.

Mr. Speaker, Jimmy Heath is a living jazz treasure and I urge all members to join me in commending him for his magnificent contribution to American and World culture.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL GALLAGHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael Gallagher, a member of the Cuyahoga County Council serving the Fifth District.

In 1999, Councilman Gallagher began his public service career as a member of Strongsville's City Council, a position he held for eleven years. During his time as a Strongsville Council member, he served on or chaired most of the council committees, served as a representative of the council to the Strongsville School Board and served as president for his final three years before his 2010 resignation. In 2009, he retired as Deputy Court Administrator of Ohio's Eighth District Court of Appeals in order to fulfill a campaign promise for his election to the Cuyahoga County Council.

Councilman Gallagher was elected to the Cuyahoga County Council in 2010 and is now the Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

Some of his achievements outside of public office include his membership in the Strongsville Rotary Club and Strongsville Chamber of Commerce. He has served as a Trustee on the Hospital Board of Southwest General Hospital for more than ten years and founded the Strongsville Youth Commission nine years ago. As a result of his dedication to his community, Councilman Gallagher was the recipient of the 2007 Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Award granted by the Cuyahoga County Bar Foundation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Councilman Michael Gallagher, a dedicated member of the Cuyahoga County Council.

HONORING JANE SMITH OF ESSEXVILLE, MICHIGAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr Speaker, on June 20, 2012 a dedicated public servant and civic leader, Jane Smith, passed away and it is fitting that we honor and recognize her public service and commitment.

Jane Smith's inspired leadership, vision and courage has been an immense inspiration to those who believe every human being is endowed with dignity. She spent more than 30 years working to ensure the well-being of our most vulnerable children as a child protective services worker for the State of Michigan. When Robert F. Kennedy was asked how his obituary should read, he responded that he hoped that he made a contribution that improved the world by lessening the suffering of children. For her entire adult life, on a daily basis, Jane Smith lessened the suffering of children. After she retired, Jane Smith continued her compassionate life and dedication. She volunteered on political campaigns, was an active member of the Bay County Democratic Party and in 2004 was appointed chair of the Bay County Department of Human Services Board. She also actively supported the Alice and Jack Wirt Library.

Jane Smith was born May 7, 1945 in Pontiac, Michigan. She graduated from Rochester High School in 1963 and Michigan State University in 1967. She is survived by her brothers, nephews nieces and great-nieces and nephews and her many friends who deeply miss her wit, opinion and stories.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Jane Smith, a woman whose life was an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Virginia Industries for the Blind, an Ability One organization that began in Charlottesville that empowers blind and visually impaired Virginians in achieving their maximum level of employment and career development.

With 19 locations throughout Virginia, the organization employs approximately 150 people, including over 100 whom are blind or visually impaired.

In May, I had the opportunity to witness firsthand the good work that Virginia Industries for the Blind does for our local communities. Virginia Industries for the Blind operates retail stores on military bases and in federal buildings throughout Virginia. From making the mattresses used by our heroes in the United States Navy to the reflective vests that hard-working Virginians depend on for safety, Virginia Industries for the Blind gives back to our community in more ways than one.

Today, I hope my colleagues will join me in commending Virginia Industries for the Blind for their service to our local communities.

IN HONOR OF BONADINE P. ''BONNIE'' NGUYEN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bonadine P. ''Bonnie'' Nguyen who passed away on Thursday, August 16, 2012 at the age of 70 after battling an illness over the past three years. She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Le; her four sons Paul, Matthew, Andrew, and Jason; her brother, Richard; and her two sisters, Carol and Tina.

Bonnie was born on June 16, 1942 in Columbus, Ohio and lived there until moving to the Cleveland area where she spent the last 31 years of her life. She became a Licensed Practical Nurse, a profession she held for 34 years, and spent most of her career with the Century Oak Care Center in Berea, Ohio—a center that opened in 1987 as a response to an increased demand in quality nursing home facilities.

When not working, she enjoyed traveling with her mother and spending time with her children; attending weddings, picnics, and family get-togethers; dancing; and watching Cleveland Indians baseball.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of Bonnie Nguyen.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and to urge my colleagues to use this time to raise awareness and help increase public knowledge about this deadly disease and its symptoms. In 2012, it is estimated that approximately 22,280 women in the United States will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and 15,500 will die of the disease. In my state, Florida, an estimated 1,040 women will die from ovarian cancer this year. Too many American women—sisters, daughters, nieces, wives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers—are losing their lives to this disease.

Ovarian cancer is currently the ninth most common cancer among women and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths, making it the deadliest of the gynecologic cancers. If ovarian cancer is treated before it has spread outside the ovary, the five-year survival rate is 93 percent. Currently, only 15 percent of ovarian cancers are found at such an early stage and overall the relative five-year survival rate is 46 percent. I urge Members of this House to help make women aware of the potential warning signs to prevent future deaths. This is especially vital because physicians acknowledge that symptoms can be vague and may be associated with other medical conditions.

Despite increased knowledge and treatments for many once-deadly cancers, ovarian cancer's risk factors, symptoms, and causes are not well understood. Experts recommend that women see a gynecologist if they experience any of the often subtle symptoms of ovarian cancer daily for more than a few weeks, these include bloating, difficulty eating, and pelvic or abdominal pain. I ask all of my colleagues to become familiar with the symptoms and to share the information with their friends, family, staff, and constituents.

Research also holds the key to identifying better treatments for ovarian cancer, as well as the development of a screening test. That is why as Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense I have made it an annual priority to assist in funding the highly successful Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Research Program. For nearly two decades now this program has played a key role in supporting unique ovarian cancer research and has already seen some breakthroughs in the fight against ovarian cancer. Continued federal funding will allow the program to maintain current research and expand innovative investigations into much-needed early detection tools and screening.

As we continue our work on establishing funding priorities for the coming fiscal year, it is my hope that my colleagues remember the important work of the DoD Ovarian Cancer Research Program and other federal initiatives aimed at reducing ovarian cancer incidence and mortality. We must all work together to bring greater awareness to ovarian cancer and help educate the women in our life about the risk factors, signs, and symptoms of this devastating disease.

MADISON COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 200th birthday of my home county, Madison County, Illinois. Situated in southwestern Illinois, Madison County is one of the fastest growing and most diverse counties in Illinois. Whether it is the suburban hustle and bustle of Collinsville and Godfrey, the rural small-town atmosphere of Grantfork and Alhambra, the industrial might of Granite City and Wood River, the farming communities around St. Jacob and Worden, the university neighborhoods of Edwardsville, the historic charm of Alton and Highland, or the new and expanding developments in Maryville and Bethalto, Madison County has something for everyone.

Madison County is proud of its history, and optimistic about its future. Our county has produced towering figures of history, literally and figuratively: being home to Robert Wadlow, the world's tallest man, as well as the great Senator Paul Simon, jazz legend Miles Davis, and the abolitionist publisher Elijah Lovejoy. Our county was founded by Swiss, Italian, Hungarian, and Lithuanian immigrants. They farmed, mined, and worked in mills. Governor Ninian Edwards—for whom Edwardsville is named—chose President James Madison as our county's namesake.

On behalf of the more than a quarter-million proud residents of Madison County, I invite you to visit and see the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, our many historic Route 66 sites, the Piasa Bird outside Alton, and the Lewis and Clark Historic Site. The fine, hard-working men and women of all walks of life who make our communities and our county an excellent place to live, work and raise a family welcome you.

I congratulate County Board President Alan Dunstan, and my many other friends and neighbors in Madison County on celebrating the bicentennial. May our home county continue to grow and prosper for another 200 years and beyond.

HAZARDOUS WASTE EKECTRONIC MANIFEST ESTABLISHMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 710, the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Establishment Act.

As the Ranking Member of the House Environment and Economy Subcommittee, I have long advocated for the establishment of an e-manifest system.

I am pleased that not only our subcommittee produced legislation to create this important system but that we did so in a bipartisan manner.

It's not very often that we in the House not only agree on a product but that it also has support from both industry and the environmental groups.

That is why it is so important to that my colleagues support this bill today.

The benefits of an electronic manifest are obvious—ranging from reduced paperwork and administrative burdens to the millions of dollars that such a system could save.

More importantly, though, with this e-manifest system we will ensure that hazardous wastes is successfully tracked and managed from generation to its final destination.

This is a good bill and I look forward to passing it and urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING PETER PALMER FOR A LIFETIME OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Peter Palmer of Bernardsville, New Jersey, for his lifetime of public service. Peter was born and raised in Bernardsville, where he lives to this day. Peter has been in public service since a young age and has remained an active servant throughout his life.

Peter joined the U.S. Signal Corps as a young man and was honorably discharged as First Lieutenant. Peter began his time in public office in 1962 when he was elected to the school board. He served two full terms and was elected to the Bernardsville Borough Council where he served for sixteen years. He quickly formed a reputation of honesty and integrity. He became Mayor and served a distinguished decade of accomplishment. He joined the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders where he has served a countywide constituency. In 2011, Peter received the high honor of being named ''Freeholder of the Year'' by the New Jersey Association of Counties. The group noted his leadership and ability.

I know Peter personally and I have seen his fine work firsthand. I join Peter's spouse, Kathleen, and his friends and colleagues in congratulating him on his of tenure selfless public service to Bernardsville, Somerset County and the State of New Jersey.

NASHVILLE SOFTBALL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the achievements of the Nashville Hornettes softball team, which earlier this month brought home its second state championship.

The Hornettes put together a stellar 35–4 season this year, swept through the regional and the sectional, and knocked off two of the state's top teams at the state finals in order to claim the title. I want to congratulate Coach Dempsey Witte, who led this team to the title in only his second year as head coach, as well as his assistants: Wayne Harre, Charlie Heck, Bethany Hinkle and Jordan Farris. I especially want to extend my congratulations to the members of the 2012 Hornettes state championship softball team who worked so hard all year to achieve this goal: Alana Czajkowski, Emily Thompson, Mollie Borowiak, Jordi Harre, Lauren O'Daniell, Hannah Yung, Nellie Snead, Nicole Deering, Kiley Pelker, Abbi Liske, Daley Buchanan, Briah Winchester, Maci Ingram and Shaye Harre.

These student-athletes, and their coaches, have represented themselves, their school and their community in a first-rate fashion, and I join with the other Members of this House in congratulating them, and wishing them all the best in their future academic and athletic endeavors.

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a group of Olympic champions from my home area of Rochester. All Rochesterians—and Americans—are incredibly proud of these dedicated athletes who have trained to be the best and who achieved their dreams at the XXX Olympic Games in London.

Abby Wambach led the United States Women's Soccer team to their third straight Olympic gold medal. Abby grew up in Rochester, NY where she played soccer and basketball at Our Lady of Mercy High School, and was named to Parade Magazine's high school All-America team. She attended the University of Florida, where she was a first-team All American and led her team to the Final Four in her senior season. In 2001, Abby joined the Women's National Team and played in her first Olympic games in Athens in 2004, contributing four goals and one assist to the gold-medal effort for Team USA. She missed the 2008 games in Beijing because of a broken leg sustained in a collision in the final match before the Olympics. Abby was back with a vengeance in 2012, however, and scored a goal in every game leading up to the final match where the USA was victorious in dramatic fashion.

Jenn Suhr soared to a hard-fought Olympic gold in the Pole Vault. Jenn was born in Fredonia, NY and was a multi-sport athlete at Fredonia High School, playing softball, basketball, soccer, and track and field. As a senior in high school in 2000, Jenn won the New York State pentathlon. She then went on to Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester and focused her athletic energy on basketball and track and field. Not only did she take her basketball team to the NCCAA national championship game and become the team's all-time leading scorer in basketball with 1,819 points, but she also graduated with a degree in psychology and began a graduate degree in school psychology. Jenn did not even begin working on her pole vaulting skills until 2004, but she quickly proved her excellence in the sport. She was an Olympic silver medalist in 2008 in Beijing, and fought her way to the gold medal in London.

Meghan Musnicki was one of the women's eight team who rowed to their second straight Olympic gold in London. Meghan was born in Naples, NY and attended Canandaigua Academy for high school, where she played soccer and basketball. She first picked up an oar as a freshman in college at St. Lawrence University in 2001. Later Meghan transferred to Ithaca College, where she helped row her team to NCAA Championships in 2004 and 2005, including an undefeated season in 2004. Meghan graduated from Ithaca College with a degree in psychology. She was first selected to the U.S. National Rowing Team in 2010, after narrowly missing a chance at the Olympics in 2008, and was part of two World Championship eight boat teams prior to winning the gold in her first Olympic games in 2012.

Ryan Lochte swam to five medals in the 2012 Olympics, adding two golds, two silvers and a bronze to bring his total to 11 medals over three Olympic games. Ryan was born in Rochester, NY and attended school in Canandaigua before his family moved to Florida, where his father coached swimming. He was a 7-time NCAA Champion while swimming for the University of Florida and was named an NCAA All-American twenty-four times. Even more laudable than Ryan's athletic achievements is his commitment to raising awareness for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a neuromuscular illness to which Ryan lost a family member. He has helped Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy "Go for the Gold" by raising money for research projects towards finding a cure for the disease.

Henrik Rummel rowed with his team to a bronze medal in men's four race of the 2012 London Olympics. Born in Denmark, Rummel moved to Pittsford, NY with his family in 2000 and attended Pittsford Mendon High School. Previously a basketball player and a skier, Henrik began rowing on the Pittsford Crew Team in 2001. He made his first national team just three years later in 2004. Henrik was recruited to Harvard, where he studied applied mathematics and economics while rowing for one of the most renowned crew teams in the country. He swept the Harvard-Yale regatta in 2008 and 2009 and won gold in the pair with coxswain at the 2009 World Rowing Championships. Henrik's bronze medal with the men's four came in his first Olympics games.

Jason Turner competed in sport shooting events in London for the third time as an Olympian. Jason is originally from Rush, NY and graduated from McQuaid Jesuit High School. At just 12 years old, Jason began shooting competitively in 1987, and was named to the 2004 Olympic team in the free pistol and 10m air pistol events. He won a bronze medal in the 10-meter Air Pistol at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. In London, Jason finished 34th with a score of 569 in the qualifying round.

Kara Lynn Joyce spent time in both Irondequoit and Webster, NY as she grew up, and still holds two school records in Webster. She attended the University of Georgia where she was an All-American three years in a row, and became the first female swimmer to win the 50-meter, 100-meter and 200-meter freestyle events. The London Olympics were also the third for Kara, who earned a pair of silver medals in the 2004 Olympics in Athens, and two more silvers in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Kara competed in the 50m free in London, and after finishing her heat tied with two other swimmers for sixteenth and final semifinal spot, treated fans to an exciting swim-off that was won by the host country's swimmer.

Jim Boeheim, best known to Western New Yorkers as the Hall of Fame coach of the Syracuse University men's basketball team, traveled to London to coach in his second Olympic games as an assistant coach for the USA Basketball team. Jim is a native of Lyons, NY and graduated from Lyons Central High School before attending Syracuse University where he attained a degree in social science. His remarkable career as a college basketball coach, which includes 34 consecutive years at one school—and the record for most career wins at one school—has now been enriched by leading the U.S. men's basketball team to two gold medals.

Gloria Peek made history in London as an assistant coach for the first-ever women's boxing event at the Olympics. Making history was nothing new for Gloria, a native of Geneva, NY and a former counselor for juvenile delinquents in Rochester, who was banned from amateur boxing in the 1970's for being a woman. She founded the Montgomery Boxing Club in the basement of the West Avenue Methodist Church in Fairport, NY in 1988 to keep young people off the streets, and she helped them finish school, apply to college and find jobs. At the 2012 Olympic games, Gloria helped coach the three women who qualified for the U.S. boxing team, including Claressa Shields, the first woman—and only member of the 2012 U.S. boxing team—to win Olympic gold.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of these men and women who dedicated themselves to excellence, and took advantage of the opportunity of the Olympic games to showcase to the world what Rochester can do. I look forward to following their future careers, as well as those of all the young Rochesterians that they have undoubtedly inspired to pursue dreams of their own.

HIGHLAND 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 175th birthday of the great city of Highland, Illinois. Originally settled in 1831 by the Swiss immigrant Koepfli family, and named Helvetia, or New Switzerland, Highland got its name five years later when a local man, General Joseph Semple, commented that the area reminded him of his native Scotland. A year after that, in 1837, Highland was formally chartered as a city. The town still retains its connection to Switzerland, partnering with the Koepfli's home in Switzerland, Sursee, as a Sister City since the 1970s, and hosting numerous festivals each year honoring the Swiss and German roots of the community.

Highland was the home of Louis Latzer, also known as the Father of Pet Milk, because he was the man who perfected the process of condensing milk, thereby making milk, and its myriad health benefits, available to large numbers of people. Mr. Latzer's homestead and museum remain open today in Highland for visitors.

Today, Highland is home to 9,919 people, the Highland Bulldogs, and many fine civic clubs, churches, and businesses, large and small. In September, the city will celebrate the 175th Jubilee, a three-day celebration of Highland's proud past, while looking toward a bright future.

I want to congratulate Mayor Joe Michaelis and Lynn Hargus, President of the Highland Historical Society, along with their staffs and

volunteers, for all of their hard work organizing this fall's Jubilee. I especially want to salute all the hard-working citizens of Highland, past and present, who have made the community such a great place to live and work. I am proud to represent such an outstanding community, and I want to wish them another 175 years of success.

RECOGNIZING CARONDELET VILLAGE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the August 23, 2012 ritual celebration of the new Carondelet Village in Saint Paul, Minnesota, a shared vision of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Presbyterian Homes and Services to raise the standard for older adult living in this community.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet have long used their faith to forge relationships to promote the common good throughout our community. They understand that working for the good of all requires all elements of the human condition to be addressed. This is the idea that guided the Carondelet Village project—designing a community where all aspects of the lives of seniors could be nurtured and strengthened. They found an excellent partner in Presbyterian Homes and Services.

Presbyterian Homes and Services has been addressing the housing and health needs of the senior community in Minnesota since 1946. Striving to do more than just meet housing needs, Presbyterian Homes also works continuously to improve the quality of its buildings and the care it provides for the older adult community. Seeing a need for senior living in Saint Paul, it drew upon decades of experience to address it. With the Sisters of St. Joseph, Presbyterian Homes posed the question of how to attend to the needs of seniors as a whole, rather than merely providing a place to live.

When the Sisters of St. Joseph and Presbyterian Homes came together, they created a community that respects diversity and provides a space for spiritual development in order to enrich the lives of residents and their families.

The Carondelet Village is a place that enables residents to reach their highest potential. At the heart of the Village is the embodiment of this vision—the Carondelet Circle—a community space where residents can work on their art, faith, health or just grab a cup of coffee.

Neighbors met the Sisters of St. Joseph and Presbyterian Home plan with praise and intense interest. Before ground was even broken, seniors began placing reservations. By the time the doors opened in December of 2011, the Village was nearly at full occupancy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Carondelet Village and the successful efforts of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Presbyterian Homes in providing needed housing and a supportive community for older residents of Minnesota.

A TRIBUTE TO DON TOLLEFSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Don Tollefson for his years of dedicated journalism in the city of Philadelphia. For almost 40 years, Don Tollefson has represented the essence of sports in the Delaware Valley.

Moving to Philadelphia in 1975, Don Tollefson held the position of Sportscaster and Sports Director for Channel 6 News. Don is most notably known for his years of service at Fox 29. Don was the co-host of Good Day Philadelphia for several years and also hosted a variety of sports-related programs including The Ray Rhoades Show and Eagles Game Day Live. More recently, Don has reported preseason games and halftime shows for the Philadelphia Eagles and co-hosts the show Eagles Game Plan.

Don Tollefson's contributions to the area stretch further then his journalism. Don is the creator of a non-profit motivational program, One Child Saved, that brings together athletes, entertainers and people in the television industry to talk to disadvantaged children. One Child Saved teaches under-privileged kids the importance of anti-hatred and anti-violence, while motivating the children to pursue careers.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Don Tollefson and thanking him for his years of service and dedication to the city of Philadelphia.

GOREVILLE BLACKCATS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of a state championship softball team from Goreville, Illinois.

After a number of successful seasons, including a close call last year, the Goreville Blackcats finally reached the IHSA softball state finals this year. But they did more than just show up: the Blackcats swept through the semifinals and finals without allowing their opponents to score a single run, en route to the program's first state championship.

I want to extend my congratulations to Coach Shanna Massey, who also won her 100th career game this year, and her assistant coach Teresa Cash. But I especially want to congratulate the members of the 2012 Goreville Blackcats state championship team: Ashlee Webb, Sydnee Rushing, Taylor Odom, Laenya Maze, McKenzi Schaede, Shelbey Miller, Alison Webb, Haley Darnell, Hannah Murley, Brittney Pritchett, Micaela Allred, Kaylee Webb and Tiffani Shadowens. They have made history for their school and made their community proud.

I join with the other Members of this House in congratulating to the Blackcats, and wishing them best of luck in all their academic and athletic endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILLIP E. McGHEE'S 33 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major General Phillip E. McGhee, for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Major General Phillip E. McGhee will retire as the Director of the Army Budget. His service spans over thirty-three years active military duty of which he served selflessly dedicated, extra-ordinary effort both peacetime and combat to the United States Army.

Commissioned a second lieutenant in the Infantry in 1979, after his graduation from Columbus State University with a bachelor's degree in Business, Major General McGhee went to his first assignment as an Infantry Platoon leader with the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. Following his transfer into the Finance Corps, Major General McGhee has served around the world in a wide variety of finance and comptroller leadership assignments throughout his illustrious career culminating as the Director of the Army Budget at the Department of the Army, Washington, DC, responsible for the Army's $245 billion current budget.

Major General McGhee has been decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Senior Parachutist Badge, just to name a few.

The United States Army and the Nation will dearly miss one of its most respected and valued leaders as Major General Phillip E. McGhee retires and moves back into his role as a citizen. We will miss his humility, selflessness, candor and integrity. Major General Phillip E. McGhee's exemplary leadership and selfless devotion to duty has touched fully three generations of Soldiers and their Families and will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to recognize Major General McGhee's long and distinguished career today and also acknowledge the great benefit to the Nation he has provided as the Director of the Army Budget. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Major General McGhee for a lifetime of service to his country. For all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country, we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Candy, their son Shawn and his wife, Stacey, and his two granddaughters, Hailey and Aiden, all the best as they continue on in their life's journey.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit the following work that was offered to me on behalf of Marine Corporal Jessie Kent Fletcher, a constituent and wounded warrior who honorably served our country in Afghanistan.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA

You!
You have no idea!
What kind of magnificent men so appear!
Who so wear that uniform, whose fine hearts will not so break or bend!
All in their most heroic shades of green, who upon them we all now so depend!
Yea, you have no idea!
Of what kind of fighting machines!
Are all of these here, The United States Marines!
Jager!
Who do so courageously appear, and move all out into that darkness all without such fear!
Yea, you have no idea!
How much they so love this country tis of thee,
and how much they do so truly believe!
For in life, each person but has their own destiny . . .
To give up, or to lead! To inspire you and me!
To so set their sights ever higher, all in what they want to be!
Yea, you have no idea!
And what kind of magnificent families,
that they all so have at home who they must now all so leave!
You have no idea!
How heroes are so made!
Magnificent men like JKF,
who go so boldly forth all out into harm's way!
From this Empire State,
New York . . . Jessie . . . whose heart is so very Gotham this very day!
Snipers, all so setting their sights high on victory,
hunters who All In Strength In Honor Do So All Believe!
Lone wolves out on the hunt,
who move without being seen!
Watch out enemy! Hunt It! Hunt It!
For today is judgement day . . .
And now its time for you to sleep! To pay!
Who can make a shot from a mile away in enemy country,
you would not believe!
You, have no idea how they will fight to be free!
With nerves of steel,
and patience and concentration so very deep!
Yea, you have no idea . . .
of what their fine souls are so made up of so very deep down!
As melding into that landscape as they so disappear,
as all out there on their own,
all out on their most courageous ways vanishing into the air . . .
Yea, you have no idea . . .
how much self control that it all so takes . . .
How much stealth and patience,
while an enemy but stands just a few feet away . . .
For Snipers are not so made, but born to be great!
For it is something that which inside is so innate!
With such instincts that which so help them to live on . . .
night after night, and day after day . . .
Setting their sights on victory, as they calibrate . . .
As so stealth fully they all so make their ways!
The ones who for an eternity will ever so wait,
just to get that shot made!
As it was on one such fateful day,
when death almost came Jessie's way . . .
When, it so took all that he so had . . .
but to just so live but one more day!
And yes, you have no idea of all of that heartache that it so takes!
When, you so realize that you have so lost your strong legs . . . .
And what it so takes,
to somehow to begin each new day . . .
Yea, you have no idea!
Of the kind of pain and heartache,
that Jessie has so faced!
And the amount courage and faith that it all so takes,
you would so amaze!
While, against all odds . . . Maximus . . .
Oh yes you Jessie just like a God you would not so fade!
Setting your sights on recovery,
as we so watched you and so realized how future angels are so made!
As you never ran out of ammo,
as your fine heart would somehow reload!
To take your soul to higher places for all us to behold!
While, all around you heartache would so explode!
Yea you have no idea!
How much it takes and how many tears!
But, The Angels up in heaven . . .
all of this can so see and feel!
And our Lord's tears for you Jessie . . .
are all so very real!
Because, he has some idea!
Because, he's been with you from the beginning so very close!
When, you got that second shot at life!
Between, the cross hairs of life and death . . .
when your will to live so meant the most!
As you Jessie so set your sights on life!
As with your courage and all of your strength,
all of us you have so blessed!
Teaching us all what the word hero so means!
And if ever I had a son!
I'd pray that he'd have a heart,
as half as great as your strong one!
Yea, Jessie I have no idea . . .
as to how and to what new heights your fine heart will so run!
And how upon your face,
I so see a smile as bright as the morning sun!
But, one day up in Heaven Jessie you will so run . . .
As thy will be done!
And Jessie,
how you find the strength and the courage, I have no idea!
As I so see your sights are so set on Heaven, so very quite clear!

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SARASOTA COUNTY

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Community Foundation of Sarasota County on obtaining accreditation from the Community Foundations National Standards Board.

The Community Foundations National Standards Board was established as a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations, a nonprofit membership association of grantmaking foundations and corporations, to administer the National Standards. This board is responsible for upholding the quality, value, and integrity of the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, the first and only accreditation of its kind.

In the United States, community foundations serve tens of thousands, administer more than $40 billion in charitable funds, and address the core concerns of more than 700 communities and regions. With such a presence—nationally and within local communities—comes great responsibility.

Achieving confirmation and reconfirming compliance with National Standards is a rigorous process, guaranteeing that every community foundation that receives the designation has adhered to excellent philanthropic practice. This program requires community foundations to document their policies for governance, donor services, investments, grantmaking, community leadership, and administration.

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County obtained its National Standards accreditation by demonstrating a commitment to operations quality, integrity, accountability, and adherence to the highest standards for grantmaking. For over 32 years, they have been making the important connection between individuals' personal memories, passions, dreams and the fulfillment of their charitable goals.

Oh behalf of the residents of Sarasota, I congratulate the Community Foundation of Sarasota County on receiving its National Standards accreditation and commend the foundation's dedicated service to Sarasota. I would also like to recognize its exceptional efforts to enrich our community. We hope to see the foundation continue to grow and have a lasting impact for our community.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT J. KASULKE'S 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major General Robert J. Kasulke, for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Major General Robert J. Kasulke will retire as the Commanding General of the Army Reserve Medical Command (ARMEDCOM) on October 1, 2012. His military service spans over thirty-two years of dedicated selfless service to the United States Army Reserve.

Major General Kasulke is a graduate of Fordham University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 1971 and earned a Masters in Public Administration from the Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Administration in 1996. He earned his degree in Medicine in 1975 and received a direct commission in the Medical Corps in 1980 following graduation from the State University of New York, Syracuse, College of Medicine while completing a Fellowship in Vascular Surgery.

Major General Kasulke has served in the U.S. Army Reserve since 1980 and held assignments as General Surgeon, 5503d U.S. Army Hospital, 912th Combat Support Hospital and Chief of Surgery of the 376th Combat Support Hospital. He commanded Detachments 1, 2 and 3 of the 310th Field Hospital and the 865th Combat Support Hospital. He was appointed as the Commander of the 8th Medical Brigade in May 2001. From March of 2005 through March of 2009 he served as the

Deputy Surgeon for Mobilization, Readiness and Reserve Affairs.

While serving as the Commander of the 8th Medical Brigade, Major General Kasulke was selected to the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee in Washington DC, and to the General Officer Medical Advisory Committee. Through these two prestigious committees, Major General Kasulke became the voice of the medical profession for the 77th Regional Support Command and the United States Army Reserve at the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism.

Major General Kasulke instituted a highly successful Innovative Readiness Training program in support of an American Indian program named: Walking Shield American Indian Society. Operation Walking Shield deployed military doctors, dentists, nurses, and other medical personnel to various American Indian reservations to help address the serious health challenges that existed in those austere areas in five states over a period of five years. The soldiers deploying to these sites returned with enhanced skills in their medical field and with the knowledge they have served their nation in a unique and meaningful way.

Major General Kasulke was also instrumental in creating a partnership with Kings County Medical Center, New York for a trauma training program which included the Jacobi Medical Center, New York. These partnerships proved to be an invaluable asset for training medical personnel for the type of trauma injuries those medical Soldiers would see within a combat theater of operations. The partnership augmented medical readiness of medical Army Reserve soldiers, and improved the training readiness of hundreds of medical personnel in the United States Army Reserve.

While serving as the Deputy Surgeon General for Mobilization, Readiness and Reserve Affairs, Major General Kasulke was the Senior United States Army Reserve Medical Department Officer acting as the representative and advisor to the Army Surgeon General. During his tenure he was instrumental in improving the joint medical readiness of the United States Army Reserve and National Guard. Major General Kasulke influenced and enhanced Army Reserve medical unit readiness by developing and increasing the number of joint medical exercises which sought to build and develop clinical training programs for Reserve clinicians. Furthermore, he improved support to the Surgeon General by building a United States Army Reserve Medical Consultant Staff, which was the first ever for the Surgeon General's office.

Major General Kasulke's career is culminating with his assignment as the Commander of the Army Reserve Medical Command, at the C. W. Bill Young Armed Forces Reserve Center in Pinellas Park, Florida. Here, Major General Kasulke was the driving force for the Reserve Component Soldier Medical Support Center. This program coupled with the Medical Management Activity rapidly evaluates permanent profiles of Soldiers across the Army Reserve. Under Major General Kasulke's stewardship, over 3,300 medically not ready profiles were reviewed resulting in a cost savings of over $88 million, and directly returning over 1,500 Soldiers back to duty. The Medical Management Activity also downgraded approximately 3,500 profiles which equates to $120 million in cost savings returning Soldiers back to their formations in a ready and deployable status.

In his civilian career, Major General Kasulke is a board certified vascular surgeon. He is also board certified in general surgery and quality assurance. He is certified in medical regulating and HIV medicine. He is also a founding member of the American Hospice Organization. He authored or co-authored several articles or chapters in numerous books and periodicals. He also serves as Assistant Editor for The Federal Practitioner and The Journal of Military Medicine for Vascular and General Surgery. Major General Kasulke serves as Chair, Director, or member for over seven community, county, or regional boards of directors. He also serves on five military associations and was most recently elected to serve as President for the Congress of the International Organization of Medical Reservists.

The Army Medical Department, the United States Army, and the Nation will dearly miss one of its most respected and valued leaders as Major General Robert J. Kasulke retires. We will miss his humility, selflessness, candor and integrity. Major General Robert J. Kasulke's exemplary leadership and selfless devotion to duty has touched fully over three generations of Soldiers and their Families.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Major General Robert J. Kasulke for a lifetime of service to his country. For all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country, we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Catherine, daughter Kristen, and son Stephen, all the best in his retirement.

NORTH KOREA REFUGEE ADOPTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 1464, the North Korea Refugee Adoption Act of 2011, I rise to thank Mr. Royce and Ranking Member Berman for bringing this important bipartisan bill to the floor on September 11, 2012.

This bill was introduced to assist North Korean children living ''stateless'' outside of that country who face starvation and neglect because they are neither North Korean citizens nor citizens of the country where they currently reside. There are many American families who would love to give a home to these orphans and refugee children if they could. This legislation will help make that process easier.

The bill encourages the Homeland and State Departments to develop strategies to help reunite North Korean refugee children with their families or to facilitate the adoption of the children by citizens of South Korea, China or other countries. Many of these children have Chinese fathers and North Korean mothers but are not claimed by either parent, and being stateless, don't have access to the resources of either country. This bill will help provide for their immediate care and begin the process of getting them settled.

I am proud to support this bill and ask my colleagues to join me.

LOCAL OLYMPIANS

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and recognize the Pittsburghers who competed in the 2012 London Olympic Games.

We are proud in Pittsburgh to be a city of champions with deep-rooted team spirit and winning traditions. These Olympians have reached the pinnacle of accomplishment in their sports, and today I would like to salute their unyielding pursuit of excellence. These hometown heroes embody the ambition, resilience, courage, and dogged work ethic that the people of Western Pennsylvania deeply admire. I would like to individually recognize each of these outstanding athletes.

Cassidy Krug attended Montour High School and Stanford University, where she was unbeaten in diving dual meet competitions. The NCAA champion, three time All-American, and 10-time national champion was coached by both of her parents—her father, the head diving coach at the University of Pittsburgh and her mother, a coach at the Pitt Aquatic Club team. She briefly retired before making a comeback to compete in diving in London, coming in 7th in the women's 3m springboard. She now plans to pursue a career in writing.

Trevor Barron of Bethel Park, a race-walking prodigy, studies computer science at Colorado College. He started suffering seizures from epilepsy at age 8 and underwent multiple brain surgeries to overcome them. Thankfully, he is now seizure-free, and throughout the trying episodes, Barron exhibited an extraordinary zeal to achieve greatness. Barron won the U.S. National Junior Olympics every year from 2003 to 2006. He set the American record in the men's 20,000 meter race-walk at the 2012 Olympic trials. He finished 26th in London setting an American record in the event.

Allison Schmitt, two-time Olympian and six-time Olympic medalist hails from the city of Pittsburgh. She took bronze in the 4x200 meter freestyle relay at her Olympic debut in Beijing. This time around she swam the anchor leg in two relays bringing home the bronze in the 4x100 meter freestyle relay and the gold in the 4x100 meter medley relay. She also won silver in the 400 meter freestyle and gold in the 200 meter freestyle. Schmitt, known for her fun-loving nature and infectious positive attitude, is headed back to the University of Georgia for her senior year.

Swin Cash of McKeesport helped the U.S. basketball team to its fifth straight gold medal at the Olympics. The team is on a 41-game winning streak in the Olympics, usually winning by nearly 30 point margins. Cash played basketball for UConn, leading the Huskies to National Championships in 2000 and 2002, when she was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four. The second pick in the 2002 WNBA draft, she was selected by the Detroit Shock, and led the team to its first WNBA Championship the following year. This is her second gold at the Olympics, as she also played on the 2004 U.S. team in Athens. Cash has graciously given back to the community in McKeesport through her charity ''Cash for Kids'' which uses sports and cultural

activities to encourage kids to ''get in the game'' on and off the court.

Jake Herbert graduated from North Allegheny High School in Pittsburgh. The two-time NCAA Champion studied communications at Northwestern University, where he was the best wrestler in the school's history. Herbert posted a perfect 34–0 record in his final season and a 149–4 career record, the fifth best percentage in NCAA history. He was a recipient of college wrestling's top honor, the Hodge Trophy. Herbert went on to win silver at the 2009 World Championships and to compete at the London Olympics, where he just missed out in the repechage on a shot at the bronze medal match. This fierce competitor sported a hefty fan club of about 65 friends and family members waving terrible towels in the crowd.

Amanda Polk grew up in Pittsburgh and graduated from Oakland Catholic High School, where she first began rowing. She studied biochemistry at the University of Notre Dame where she was part of the first NCAA team bid in the team's history and was a four time All-American. Polk took silver in the four at the 2009 World Championhips, then won gold in the eight in 2010 and 2011. She recently won gold and set a world best time in the women's eight at the 2012 World Rowing Cup in Lucerne. Polk has consistently been a strong part of the eight that is dominating women's rowing and she was an alternate in London. Unbeaten since 2006, the women were golden again in London, successfully defending their title from Beijing and solidifying what Polk's teammate, Susan Francia, has rightfully dubbed an ''American Dynasty.''

Lauren Crandall grew up in Doylestown, PA and went to school in North Allegheny. She was first named to the U.S. National field hockey team when she was a sophomore at Wake Forest. In 2006, Crandall was named the ACC Tournament Most Valuable Player. A veteran of the international field hockey scene, she has 173 international caps, or tournament appearances, which is the second most on the team. Now a two-time Olympian, she helped the team to an 8th place finish in Beijing and captained Team USA in London to come in 12th place. Crandall is going to DeVry University to pursue a master's degree in public administration with a concentration on non-profit organizations.

Christa Harmotto was originally recruited to play volleyball from a 6th grade gym glass. She went on to play at Hopewell High School and then at Penn State where she studied education. She and her team won national titles in 2007 and 2008 and she ended her career with a .433 career hitting percentage, the second best in NCAA history. Harmotto played basketball abroad professionally, where she sharpened her skills gearing up for the Games and now she has a silver medal from the London Olympics indoor volleyball competition to show for it. She plans to continue playing and training for Rio in 2016.

Lauryn Williams, a track and field star, was born in Pittsburgh. Williams studied finance at the University of Miami, where she was the 2004 NCAA Champion at the 100 meter. A three-time World Champion, Williams took home the silver medal in the 100 meter at the 2004 Games and came in fourth in the event in 2008. She competed in the 4x100 meter relay in Beijing but an incomplete pass of the baton put the team out of medal contention. In London, Williams ran the anchor leg of the women's 4x100 meter in the qualification round, and the team went on to win gold in event. Williams aims to finish 100 meter races in under 11 seconds. Every time she goes ''sub 11,'' she has pledged to give out a $1000 scholarship to a female athlete in her senior year of high school. The 2006 Visa Humanitarian of the Year, she is deeply invested in her community as part of USA Track and Field's ''Be a Champion'' community outreach, through volunteering with hearing impaired elementary school students, and through her female athlete scholarship fund.

I applaud all of these extraordinary athletes for their unbreakable spirits, their indomitable will to win, and their thrilling achievements. Training involves serious sacrifices. These athletes put in the work day in and day out, then they put it all on the line on the world stage with gutsy performances full of heart. I want to commend their family and friends who have supported their Olympic dreams and helped them keep striving to be stronger, get faster, and reach farther. And to these Olympians, I want to wish you a hearty congratulations and I want you to know that we in Pittsburgh are proud of yinz!

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Too many American women—sisters, daughters, nieces, wives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers—are losing their lives to this disease. This year alone, more than 20,000 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and more than 15,000 will die of the disease.

Ovarian cancer is the ninth most common cancer among women, and the deadliest of gynecologic cancers. If ovarian cancer is treated before it spreads, the five-year survival rate is 93 percent. But, because there is no ovarian cancer screening or early detection test, many women won't learn their diagnosis until the odds are against them.

We must do everything we can to make women aware of the risk factors, signs, and symptoms of ovarian cancer before it is too late. Doctors recommend that women see a gynecologist if they experience any of the symptoms of ovarian cancer daily for more than a few weeks. We must all become familiar with the early symptoms and share this information.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting investments in medical research. We must ensure that the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are receiving the funding they need to put an end to ovarian cancer. Investments in medical research will lead to breakthroughs in screening, early detection, and treatment.

Today, I stand with the ovarian cancer community in their efforts to increase awareness of the symptoms, boost federal funding for ovarian cancer awareness, and expand federal research to improve treatments and develop a desperately needed screening or early detection test.

Please join me in recognizing September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month to increase public knowledge about this deadly disease and save lives.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CORLISS GADSDEN'S 29 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel Corliss Gadsden, for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Colonel Corliss Gadsden will retire as the Army Reserve Medical Command's Operations Officer (G–3) on October 1, 2012. Her service spans over twenty-nine years of military duty to the United States Army Reserve.

Colonel Corliss Gadsden has served her country with integrity, dedication, and visionary leadership for over 29 years. She has constantly and consistently achieved and surpassed every mission assigned to her. During the early days of the Global War on Terrorism, while assigned as the United States Army Reserve Europe Medical Plans Officer, she was responsible for activating three medical units to support the European Regional Medical Command resulting in the right mix of medical professionals deploying to hostile environments to ensure the highest quality medical care for deployed United States service members.

Ever conscious of maintaining the operational posture of Army Reserve Soldiers' she focused and honed in on the medical and Soldier skills. In 2002, she was responsible for increasing the United States Army Reserve Force Projection footprint to support the ever-growing Overseas Deployment Training missions from 400 Soldiers to over 1,000 Soldiers. During 2003 and 2004 she led the efforts to deploy over 800 individual healthcare providers in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, and OPERATION JOINT GUARDIAN while sourcing medical units for all active operations in United States Central Command, European Command, and the continental United States based support missions.

In 2006, while serving in the United States Army Reserve Command's Surgeon Office as the Chief, Medical Plans and Operations her planning was critical in maintaining the continuity of operations while transitioning from the ten Regional Readiness Commands to four Regional Support Commands and simultaneously maintaining the United States Army Reserve Command's medical operations in light of the ongoing base realignment and closure mission. She planned, coordinated, and conducted quarterly synchronization meetings ensuring the prioritized, timely, and maximized use of the Individual Ready Reserve and Individual Mobilization Augmentation Soldiers in support of global Overseas Contingency Operations.

In 2007 she was recognized by the Commanding General of the Army Reserve and Secretary of the Army for her herculean efforts in the mobilization and deployment of thousands of Army Reserve Soldiers. Colonel

Gadsden, partnered with the Department of the Army G–3 and the United States Army Medical Command in developing the blueprint for the Warrior Transition Units and led the initial staffing efforts which proved to be instrumental in the care and transition of our wounded warriors returning home from the Global War on Terror.

Colonel Gadsden's selfless service and commitment to her Soldiers has distinguished her among her peers. She was instrumental in transforming the Army Reserve Medical Commands from a strategic force to an operational force. As the interim Chief of Staff for Western Regional Medical Command she expanded the command from a six-state region to a 20-state region in less than one year while ensuring the continuity of care for over 358,000 beneficiaries. As the Army Reserve Medical Command's G–3 she led the staff through a deliberate and comprehensive mission analysis which resulted in trained and ready medical units to support the Combatant Commands and enhance continental U.S. based mobilization platforms with a stable medical support plan. Colonel Gadsden's contributions to the Army have been immense.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Colonel Corliss Gadsden for a lifetime of service to her country. For all she and her family have given and continue to give to our country, we are in their debt. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saginaw Community Foundation on obtaining their National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations accreditation from the Community Foundations Standards Board.

The Community Foundations National Standards Board was established as a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations, a nonprofit membership association of grant making foundations and corporations, to administer the National Standards. This board is responsible for upholding the quality, value, and integrity of the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, the first and only accreditation program of its kind.

In the United States, community foundations serve tens of thousands of donors, administer more than $40 billion in charitable funds, and address the core concerns of more than 700 communities and regions. With such a presence—nationally and within local communities—comes responsibility.

Achieving confirmation and reconfirming compliance with National Standards is a rigorous process, guaranteeing that every community foundation that receives the designation has adhered to excellent philanthropic practice. This program requires community foundations to document their policies for governance, donor services, investments, grantmaking, community leadership, and administration.

The Saginaw Community Foundation of Saginaw, Michigan has obtained its National Standards accreditation by demonstrating a commitment to operational quality, integrity, accountability, and adherence to the highest standards for grantmaking.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Saginaw Community Foundation on receiving its National Standards accreditation and in commending the foundation's dedicated service to Saginaw and other communities in Michigan.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MILAGROS ''MILLIE'' MUNOZ

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I bring news to the U.S. Congress that, last month, on Monday, August 6, the South Florida community and the Munoz family lost a courageous and strong woman: Milagros ''Millie'' Munoz.

I have twice previously come to the floor to speak of Millie, and the debilitating disorder from which she suffered: Dystonia. Millie was a remarkable woman described by all who knew her as ''the sweetest person,'' who was strong even in the face of the inescapable pains of dystonia. Through all of it—her pain; her rigorous physical therapy sessions—Millie always greeted everyone with that warm, unmistakable smile of hers.

As a Member of Congress, it is my duty to help call attention to, and raise awareness of disorders such as dystonia to the American public. Together we can work together and call for additional research, with the hope that one day a cure may be found.

Right now, dystonia is a virtually unknown condition that stems from major neurological diseases. It causes the involuntary spasm and contraction of muscles that robs those affected of the freedom to move. The condition is often misdiagnosed; Millie herself was often told by doctors that ''it was all in her head.'' It was only until her friend and doctor, Cynthia Gonzalez, astutely recognized Millie's symptoms as dystonia, that her mind could be put at ease.

Millie's case stands as an example of why more Americans should be aware of dystonia; so that more can be done to prevent it and others like Millie don't have to suffer unnecessarily in the future. People should know her story so that Millie's courage in the face of adversity does not get forgotten.

Millie may be gone, but her courage and resilience will be her lasting legacy. All of our hearts are a little heavier this week in South Florida as we honor and remember Milagros ''Millie'' Munoz. We should not mourn the loss of a life, but rather celebrate the memory of a life lived.

Mr. Speaker, her passing is not the end, but the beginning of a new future; a future where others need not suffer from disorders like dystonia. And we here in Congress can help facilitate that future.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LUIS MARTINEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Luis Martinez for his outstanding commitment and dedication to the Latino community in New York City and in Puerto Rico.

Luis Martinez was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Luis arrived in New York in 1954 and shortly thereafter enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served our country honorably for 24 years. While Luis was in the service, as a non-commissioned officer, he played and participated in baseball tournaments throughout Puerto Rico, including in San Juan, Aguadilla, Bayamon, and Mayaguez. Luis also participated in All-Squad athletic competitions in Japan, Guam, California, North Carolina, and New Jersey.

Today, Luis is an active member of a variety of groups. He focuses many of his efforts increasing sports participation in the Latino community. Luis is Vice President for Community Affairs for the Hispanic-American Sports Coalition, which was founded in 1992. The Hispanic-American Sports Coalition is an umbrella group for all sports activities within the Latino community. The group organizes tournaments for youth athletes in baseball, basketball, and soccer, in addition to conducting training for players, coaches, and league officials. One of the most notable, popular, and exciting events that the Hispanic-American Sports Coalition hosts is the Latino Little League World Series for 10–12 year olds, held in Red Hook, Brooklyn over a period of three days every Labor Day Weekend. This tournament has drawn the enthusiastic support of New York City Mayors, New York State Governors, and other public figures and distinguished personalities.

Luis is also a committee member of Latino Sports, Inc., as well as the Latino Sports Writers and Broadcasters Association. The latter group is responsible for annually selecting the most valuable Hispanic baseball players in the National and American Leagues. Luis is also the founder of the The Greater New York Cosmopolitan Amateur Baseball Association, Inc.

However, Luis is also an accomplished photojournalist for the weekly newspaper La Voz Hispana, the magazines Discomundo and Espectaculos, as well as the newspaper Impacto. Through his photography he has documented the day to day life of Puerto Ricans and Latinos in New York City, providing an unparalleled photographic history of one of the most vibrant communities in New York. Luis has also contributed to his community as president for 15 years of the Lower East Side Hispanic Committee, Inc. In recognition of all his work he was awarded the Ramon Emerito Betances Award from the National Puerto Rican Parade.

Mr. Speaker, Luis Martinez has made an outstanding contribution to his community. His extraordinary dedication and devotion in bringing athletic opportunities to youngsters is remarkable. His multifaceted background as a photojournalist, community leader, and sports enthusiast has enriched the lives of thousands of New Yorkers. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my

colleagues join me in recognizing a gifted individual, Luis "White Shoes" Martinez.

RECOGNIZING THE TRINKA DAVIS VETERANS VILLAGE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come to you today to recognize the grand opening of the Trinka Davis Veterans Village in Carrollton, Georgia on September 28, 2012. This is a momentous event for the 3rd district, and I am proud to help honor their great service to our nation's brave veterans.

The Trinka Davis Veterans Village would not have been possible without the $17 million donation from the Trinka Davis Foundation. Ms. Katherine "Trinka" Rynne Davis was a Carroll County business leader who was profoundly impacted after learning of the difficulties our veterans and their families face on a daily basis. She founded the Trinka Davis Foundation on November 9, 2004 and focused the majority of the funding on improving the lives of our soldiers and healing the trauma from deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Following her unexpected death, Ms. Davis left her entire estate to her foundation. Over $25 million was left to aid our veterans and their families. In working with the Atlanta VA Medical center, the Foundation developed the concept of the Veterans Village to best serve the needs of our local veterans in rehabilitating injuries and problems faced upon coming home; such as loss of limbs, traumatic brain injuries, depression, PTSD, unemployment, and loss of homes.

The Trinka Davis Veterans Village has been built to serve as both a medical office and community living center for veterans across Georgia. Through regional research, the Foundation Board learned that veterans in the Bowden and Atlanta area needed a Community Based Outpatient Clinic and nursing facility in Carrollton, Georgia. Without the donations from the Trinka Davis Foundation, the construction and operation of the village would never have become a reality. The facility anticipates around 3,000 veterans in the area will use the primary care services, and with 42 beds, rehabilitation will be more accessible than before. The facility will have a family-centered approach to treatment and will let residents and family members of the village be more involved in their care. The Trinka Davis Veterans Village will also provide home-based care for patients who cannot travel to the clinic.

I would like to thank Trinka Davis, who I know is smiling down from above, her wonderful Foundation and the Atlanta VA for their hard work and donations to make the Veterans Village possible. The Trinka Davis Veterans Village is a great step in improving veteran care in our great state and helps us to give back to our veterans who have given everything so that we can live free.

CONGRATULATING EAST TENNESSEE FOUNDATION IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate East Tennessee Foundation in Knoxville, Tennessee, on obtaining its National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations accreditation from the Community Foundations National Standards Board.

East Tennessee Foundation is headed by my longtime friend Michael McClamroch.

Mike is one of the hardest working and finest men I know, and I am very proud of his leadership of East Tennessee Foundation and all the great work it does for East Tennessee.

In the United States, community foundations serve tens of thousands of donors, administer more than $40 billion in charitable funds, and address the core concerns of more than 700 communities and regions.

Achieving this accreditation is a rigorous process, demonstrating that East Tennessee Foundation has a commitment to the highest standards possible.

I want to again congratulate my friend, Mike McClamroch, and East Tennessee Foundation on receiving its National Standards accreditation and commend the foundation's dedicated service to East Tennessee.

IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL BILL RHEA STARNES

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative PHIL ROE, I submit these remarks in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Bill Rhea Starnes, a veteran and distinguished pilot, who was prematurely taken from us on August 24, 2012.

As a member of both the United States Air Force and the Tennessee Army National Guard, Bill gallantly served our country for 39 years. At the ripe old age of 14, his love for aviation was first cultivated when his father taught him how to fly a plane. After graduating from East Tennessee State University, Bill continued his flight training at Fort Rucker in Alabama. Following flight school, Bill served in Vietnam, where he flew approximately 800 combat hours. In 2005 and 2006, he was deployed to Kosovo. Throughout his military career, Bill demonstrated the courage, fortitude, and wisdom that a nation prays for and a military dreams of having. He was the recipient of nearly 50 awards including the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and air medals with valor and army commendation.

Even down to his voicemail—"Hello, it's Bill. Learn as if you will live forever, and live as if you will die tomorrow,"—Bill embodied a strong desire to live life to the fullest. Though he didn't reside in the Ninth District, I assure you, Bill was an active member of our community. As the chief pilot for K-VA-T Food Stores and Central Coal Company, he was even said to be a "fixture" at the Virginia Highlands Airport.

A committed family man, a man who loved God and his country, and a friend of many, Bill will be greatly missed by his colleagues and those he served. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Lisa; his two sons; his father; his family; and his friends.

Well known for his exceptional goodwill and dedication to the United States military and our community, I am honored to pay tribute to this man's many contributions. His legacy and influence will be long remembered throughout our region.

HONORNG MEL BIRDWELL

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Mrs. Mel Birdwell, the wife of Texas State Senator Brian Birdwell. She has been one of the most active and visible spouses of a Hood County elected official on the local, state or national level.

For three years Mrs. Birdwell has served on the board of the Republican Women of Hood County. During this time she has assisted with expanding the party, as well as, securing copies of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence to give to every 5th grade student in every Hood County elementary school.

Mrs. Birdwell has served on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Hood County where she had extensive positive influences for the children in our community.

One of Mrs. Birdwell's most significant accomplishments would be to that of her and Senator Birdwell's Face the Fire Ministry. This ministry assists burn survivors and wounded servicemen and women and their families. Mrs. Birdwell and her husband began this ministry after her husband's recovery from severe burns due to the 9/11 terrorist attack of the Pentagon. Because her husband's duties as Senator require much of his attention, Mel has single-handedly taken charge of the ministry.

Mrs. Birdwell is also a role model for wives and mothers everywhere in her loyalty to her husband. When presented by the military with a form for her signature which read "soldier's death imminent within 72 hours", Mrs. Birdwell fought for them to do whatever it takes to ensure the survival of her husband. Her never ending fight for his life and God's intervention is why we have Senator Birdwell with us today.

In 2002, Mrs. Birdwell was presented with the fourth annual Robertson McQuilkin Award for Commitment to Marriage by Family Life Ministries. In 2004, the Department of the Army recognized her 17 plus years of service to the Army family with the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal.

Today we recognize and honor Mrs. Mel Birdwell's devotion, dedication and loyalty to our Nation, our state, our county, and her family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, on rollccall Nos. 557 (H.R. 6122), 558 (H.R. 2139), 559 (H.R. 6186), 560 (H. Res. 773), 561 (H. Res. 773), and 562 (H.R. 4264) I am not recorded as I was detained in my district due to the death of Dr. Bill Causey, my first Pastor, and close friend. I was asked to speak at his funeral.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIN DALY AND THE BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TEAM FOR RECEIVING THE 2012 USDA SECRETARY'S HONOR AWARD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Erin Daly and the rest of the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program team at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for being selected to receive a 2012 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary's Honor Award in the category of "assisting rural communities to create prosperity so they are self-sustaining, repopulating, and economically thriving." The team and its program leader, Dr. S. (Suresh) Sureshwaran, will be honored on September 12, 2012 at the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Mission Area ceremony and the USDA 64th Annual Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony, both in Washington, DC.

I am especially pleased because Erin has served as a Brookings Institution Legis Congressional Fellow in my Washington, DC. office since January of this year. She works on issues including agriculture, particularly as it pertains to the Farm Bill and authorization issues; environment; food safety and Food and Drug Administration issues; nutrition/hunger; HBCUs; immigration; and trade. Not only is Erin a great asset to my office, but she has also become a steadfast resource for my staff and the constituents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia. I have personally witnessed her hard work and dedication and I know this prestigious award recognizing exemplary leadership and public service is very well-deserved.

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) was authorized in the 2008 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act and is administered by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the USDA. The purpose of the program is to assist farmer and rancher producers who have little or no farming experience and to provide the knowledge, skills, and tools they need to make informed decisions and improve their rate of success. As of 2010, more than 5,000 new and potential farmers had participated in BFRDP training events, including webinars, seminars, roundtable discussions, internships, mentorships, on-farm field days, etc.

In Georgia, BFRDP has awarded grants to the Development of Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina Program; the Cultivating Sustainable and Organic Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in Georgia Program; and the Urban Oasis Beginning Farmer Training Program. These grants have greatly assisted beginning farmers and ranchers in Georgia in obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to manage a successful farm, improve their rural communities, and contribute to the local, state, and national economy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District and the members of my staff, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Erin Daly and the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program team for their strong commitment and valuable contributions to beginning farmers and their rural communities. I am extremely proud of Erin and I know she will continue to do great things in my office and at USDA.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ROGER B. SCHULZ'S 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Command Sergeant Major Roger B. Schulz, for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Command Sergeant Major Roger B. Schulz will retire as Command Sergeant Major and Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Army Reserve Medical Command on October 1, 2012. His service spans over thirty-six years of military duty to the United States Army Reserve.

Command Sergeant Major Schulz has served in numerous assignments throughout his career and participated in many operations, including OPERATION JACKFROST and OPERATION BRIMFROST conducted in Alaska, and OPERATION BRIGHT STAR conducted in Egypt. He supported OPERATION DESERT STORM while stationed at Fort McCoy, WI, and deployed to Baghdad in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

Command Sergeant Major Schulz began his career as an Infantryman; serving for twelve years holding the positions of Rifleman through Platoon Sergeant. Following his time in the Infantry, Command Sergeant Major Schulz dedicated himself to the education of future Army leaders. He has served as an Instructor, Team Sergeant and Senior Instructor, 4th Army Light Fighter Academy; Brigade Operations Sergeant, 4th Brigade, 91st Division; Division Operations Sergeant, 91st Division; Battalion Operations Sergeant, Training Support Battalion, 104th Division; Chief of Operations, Primary Leader Development Course Manager and First Sergeant, U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer's Academy; Deputy Commandant/Director of Instruction, U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer's Academy; Installation Command Sergeant Major; Commandant, U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer's Academy and Commander, 12th Battalion, 6th Brigade, 104th Division; and Commander, Company A, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy.

In 2003, Command Sergeant Major Schulz was assigned to the 3rd Medical Command where he was instrumental in the development of two Army Medical Department accredited schools in Iraq. His career is culminating at the Army Reserve Medical Command, where he is responsible for the discipline, morale, welfare, and education of over 28,000 Soldiers. Through his guidance and leadership the command sustainment rate was over 91%. He initiated the first Sergeant Audi Murphy Board for the command and set the requirements for the continued success of the program.

The Army Medical Department, the United States Army, and the Nation will dearly miss one of its most respected and a valued leader as Command Sergeant Major Roger B. Schulz retires. We will miss his humility, selflessness, candor and integrity. Command Sergeant Major Roger B. Schulz's exemplary leadership and selfless devotion to duty has touched fully three generations of Soldiers and their Families.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing Command Sergeant Major Roger B. Schulz for a lifetime of service to his country. For all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country; we are in their debt. We wish him and his wife, Command Sergeant Major Tommie Schulz, all the best in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on September 10, 2012, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall vote No. 557, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 558, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 559, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING MRS. ALOYSIA FOUCHE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Mrs. Aloysia Fouche, owner and CEO of Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home, Inc., as she is awarded a 2012 Living Legends of Funeral Service award from the One Hundred Black Women of Funeral Service Organization.

A trailblazer in the funeral business for nearly three decades, Mrs. Fouche transitioned into the funeral profession after the passing of her late husband and founder of the Funeral Home, Mr. Aramis Fouche. At a time when African-American women business owners were few and far between, Mrs. Fouche achieved her five-year business plan within two years. She brought greater financial solvency and extensive facility improvements to the business,

which continues to thrive today—in spite of a difficult economic climate.

Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home continues to be a source of pride in the Bay Area, serving our local African-American community with diligence and personalized care. A former educator, with a master's degree in Curriculum Development, Mrs. Fouche was also a fearless principal, as well as a celebrated teacher and instructor of media studies. Among her numerous accolades and associations, Mrs. Fouche was named Teacher of the Year, oversaw many of her students' award-winning animation films, and produced a weekly television program for parents to enhance their children's at-home learning.

In addition to her proud membership with the One Hundred Black Women of Funeral Service Organization, Mrs. Fouche is active in NFD&MA, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Friends of Father Augustine Tolton, and Phi Delta Kappa National Fraternity. Mrs. Fouche has also spent countless hours supporting and volunteering for local organizations aiding the underserved through food assistance, education scholarships, veterans services, faith ministries and AIDS awareness and prevention. She has also traveled the world extensively and counts tennis and dance among her hobbies.

As Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home management, staff and supporters look forward to its centennial anniversary in 2014, the receipt of Mrs. Fouche's Living Legends honor is timely and well-deserved. Thank you to all of the One Hundred Black Women of Funeral Service for being leaders in your communities and for providing families dignity, closure and excellent care.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, Mrs. Aloysia Fouche, I salute you. Your many years of service have made an indelible mark in our community. Thank you for your continued work, and best wishes to you and your loved ones in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PARALYMPIANS IN LONDON, ENGLAND

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of a class of athletes whose stories embody the classic American values of perseverance and commitment to excellence.

I am speaking of the laudable Paralympians who represented our nation in the Paralympic Games in London.

There is perhaps no better event to remind us of the unwavering desire for greatness, inherent in every American, than the Paralympic Games. The Olympic Games in London have amplified the patriotic spirit that unites us as Americans and reminds us, with each American medal, of our grand fortune as citizens of this blessed country and our legacy of exceptionalism.

Paralympic athletes complement the narrative of our history by reinforcing the notion that determination and dedication trump any of the hurdles circumstance may send our way. Their remarkable achievements as Paralympians alike shatter misconceptions that physical disability implies shortcoming of any kind. I am proud to stand alongside them and support them as emissaries of the United States.

Their rousing individual stories prove just as remarkable as the event itself. As a Member of the House of Representatives from south Florida, I am overjoyed to represent five inspiring Paralympians.

Justin Zook, a young man from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, has quite the résumé. Justin competed on the United States Swim Team in the London Paralympics, and earned a gold medal in the men's 100 meter backstroke. In his special event, Justin has won a total of three gold medals in the 100 meter backstroke. He has set impressive world records in the 50 meter backstroke, 100 meter backstroke and 400 meter freestyle. He has represented Team USA for the past two Paralympic Games in the S10 division, winning gold and bronze medals at both appearances. Justin's record of excellence charges on, never affected by his disability.

In addition to his marked brilliance in the realm of swimming, Justin remains committed to his academics as he pursues an MBA in Sport Management at Florida Atlantic University and ultimately strives for the position of Athletics Director at an NCAA Division I institution. His focus and determination to excel in all aspects of life are qualities deserving of the utmost respect.

Paul Callahan, of Palm Beach, Florida competed in the Three-Person Keelboat Sonar sailing event along with two other team members, and came in seventh place. Paul currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of ''Sail to Prevail'', a non-profit corporation whose mission dates back to 1982 and seeks to provide disabled children and adults with the opportunity to overcome adversity through therapeutic sailing. Paul's championing of ''Sail to Prevail'' is reflected in his own experience and story.

After an accident during his junior year at Harvard rendered Paul a C4–5 quadriplegic in 1979, he returned to school after years of therapy, obtained a degree from the prestigious Harvard Business School, and worked at Goldman Sachs for a number of years. Paul left Wall Street to join the team at ''Sail for Prevail'', where he learned to sail nearly 15 years after his accident and cultivated the sailing expertise and philosophy that would eventually lead him to become part of the United States Sailing Team in 1998, and a participant with the 2000 and 2012 Paralympic teams. Paul's dedication to providing the means and occasions for disabled individuals to sail alongside their able-bodied counterparts reflects his vision to create bigger and better opportunities for disabled athletes to counter the physical and psychological challenges that can sometimes come with disability. Among many other notable qualities, Paul's tenacity and love for his craft makes him a standout athlete and Paralympian.

Noah Yablong is a recent graduate of the University of Arizona with a degree in mechanical engineering from Ocean Ridge, Florida. Noah's immense talent qualified him to travel with Team USA to compete in the London Paralympics in the sport of wheelchair tennis. In the London Paralympics, Noah qualified to compete up to round 32 in the wheelchair men's tennis doubles, along with his teammate Steve Baldwin. He also succeeded in making it to round 64 in the wheelchair men's singles. Noah's athletic endeavors, achieved in spite of the disease that limits his mobility, have provided him with opportunities of travel and sport that most American athletes can only imagine. Noah has visited five of the seven continents for tennis, and represented the United States in the World Team Cup three times.

Noah's story is a classic one that speaks to the American spirit of perseverance. A participant in every sport imaginable, Noah's athletic experiences before his diagnosis included basketball, baseball, soccer, tennis, golf, and swimming. At age ten, Noah was diagnosed with Legg Calve Perthes, a rare and degenerative hip disease that makes it exceedingly difficult for him to walk and run. A devoted athlete through and through, the thirty hours of weekly training Noah dedicates to his craft extinguishes the assumption that disabilities limit accomplishments, and ultimately dreams. Noah's story, like Paul's, is a testament to the power of hard work and proves inspirational to all Americans, regardless of background or circumstance.

A fourth example of athletic excellence is Brad Johnson, a member of the United States Paralympic Sailing Team three times over and a lawyer by trade. Never limited by the automobile accident that severed both of his legs, Brad began his career as a nationally-renowned athlete and Paralympian by participating in the national sit-volleyball team after graduating from law school. Brad's love for sailing was one that he cultivated relatively recently, illustrated by the fact that he took up the sport at the age of thirty. Nearly a decade and a half later, Brad has managed to collect a variety of medals and championships that distinguish him as truly one of the best in both sit-volleyball and sailing. Along with one of his teammates Paul Callahan, he placed seventh in the Three-Person Keelboat Sonar sailing event.

After Brad medaled at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games in the sonar class of sailing, he returned to sit-volleyball and traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil as part of the winning-U.S. Men's Sitting Volleyball Team in 2007. In 2010, Brad attended the Sitting Volleyball World Championships as a participant of Team USA, where the team placed tenth. As a practicing attorney and Paralympian residing in Pompano Beach, Florida, Brad maintains a full schedule, but always seeks to integrate his love for sport, determination in his career, and commitment to changing perceptions toward disability in his daily life. The versatility and activism with which Brad approaches his craft makes me proud to represent him.

Scott Danberg resides in Cooper City, Florida and represents one of the most recognized athletes in the Games. Scott competed in the past four consecutive Paralympic Games, which makes his appearance in London his fifth Paralympic Games. While there, he placed seventh in the men's discus throw. Over the 20-plus years that Scott has competed, he has garnered accolades in a variety of events as part of the U.S. Track and Field Team. His distinction in the events of javelin, shot put and powerlifting characterize Scott as an outstandingly talented athlete, which speaks to the discipline he shows in his personal life, as well as his competitive life.

Scott works as the Director of Fitness at Pritikin Longevity Center in Aventura, Florida, a company dedicated to promoting a holistic approach to health that focuses on nutrition, exercise and mind-body health. As a Master's of Kinesiology and a Ph.D. candidate in Leadership and Education, it is clear that Scott's true passion lies in his desire to harmonize all of his strengths, talents, by inspiring others to also achieve their dreams. Scott's lifestyle and achievements distinguish him as an exceptional Floridian and one that I am honored to represent. I enjoyed watching him compete in both the shot put and discus categories in the Games, and commend him for leading by example.

These great Paralympians are some of the best athletes that our country has to offer. Their will to succeed is not limited, but rather encouraged by the adversity they have faced. These men are defined by so much more than their disabilities. They are defined by their fearlessness, by their steadfast movement forward in pursuing bigger and better, by their medals, by their families and communities, by their hearts, and by the American spirit built in each of them.

Justin, Paul, Noah, Brad, and Scott set an example for men, women, and children in every way. During the 2012 Paralympic Games, they made all Americans and our Nation proud.

IN MEMORY OF FATHER BEITING

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Monsignor Ralph Beiting, a compassionate, self-sacrificing man, who devoted his life to bettering the lives of those in eastern Kentucky. On August 9, 2012, Father Beiting joined his generous God in heaven at the age of 88 following a brief illness. His heart for the impoverished and his sincere generosity to those in need has touched the lives of others and he will be forever remembered in Appalachia and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

After World War II, Father Beiting began serving the people of eastern Kentucky with countless social service programs. Born and raised in northern Kentucky, Father Beiting first traveled to Appalachia in 1946, encountering a new kind of poverty, one not seen even during the Great Depression. His compassion and sympathy for rural families developed then as he made it his mission to help the impoverished and needy of my region. In 1950, Beiting returned to eastern Kentucky to help launch a church, and although this committed Catholic Priest was not always welcomed with open arms, Beiting continued his work of never letting the poor go untended.

In 1957, Beiting launched a fully-integrated summer camp for boys from poor families in the counties where he ministered. By 1964, his ministry had developed into the Christian Appalachian Project, CAP, an interdenominational, non-profit organization that serves Kentucky's mountain residents. Today CAP stands as the 15th largest human services charity in the nation. A warehouse and thrift store in Louisa also bears Beiting's name. The Father Beiting Appalachian Mission Center distributes food, clothing, furniture, and provides four local thrift stores with low-cost merchandise, in keeping with Beiting's spirit of meeting physical and human needs. In fact, Beiting spent much of his time personally delivering food, clothing and household goods to help the needy in eastern Kentucky.

Father Beiting's legacy of charity, love of Kentuckians, and volunteer efforts is an inspiration all across our region. Always sharing God's love with everyone he met, Beiting served as a bright light for thousands of Appalachian families in need. On behalf of my wife Cynthia and myself, I want to extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies to his family, friends, and those he served with in Appalachia. Our region will miss this great man.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Father Beiting, a true man of God, who dedicated a lifetime of service to bettering the lives of those in eastern Kentucky.

HONORING THE PETALUMA NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE ALL STARS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Petaluma National Little League All Stars for their amazing run in the 2012 Little League World Series. I couldn't be prouder of the way they represented our community and themselves.

Even though they fell short of the national championship, they distinguished themselves as one of the nation's and the world's best youth baseball teams. More than 6,500 teams from around the globe entered the tournament, and the boys from Petaluma finished second in the United States and third in the world. They played more games than any other team in the tournament, winning five and losing two. Even in their final loss to Tennessee, they showed fierce determination and a refusal to give up, rallying for a 10-run comeback to force the game into extra innings.

Bradley Smith led the way with an astounding .636 batting average, a tournament-leading 14 hits, a record-breaking 6 doubles and 11 RBI, as well as great fielding and pitching.

Hance Smith hit .429, leading the team with 4 home runs and knocking home more runs (12) than any other player in the Little League World Series.

Daniel Marzo hit .348 with a walk-off game-winning home run in extra innings against New Jersey, on top of his outstanding pitching.

Cole Tomei batted .333 with clutch hitting and dazzling third base defense that reminded many of Brooks Robinson.

Logan Douglas, who provided great all-around leadership and top-notch relief pitching, also had a .318 batting average, and his 11 runs scored were the second-highest in the tournament

Catchers Austin Paretti and James O'Hanlon provided perfect handling of the pitching staff throughout the tournament, with James contributing timely hits and Austin adding 8 runs scored in only 8 at-bats.

Dylan Moore, Blake Buhrer and Kempton Brandis all contributed clutch performances, including Kempton's two home runs against Tennessee; Blake's big hit to spark a rally against New Jersey; and Dylan's overall solid work in the field, on the mound and at bat.

Porter Slate scored 8 runs out of the leadoff slot while playing stellar defense at second base.

Quinton Gago's home run against the Southwest would still be going if it hadn't hit the side of a hill. And his dominant pitching performance against Texas gave the team a huge lift.

Andrew White provided outstanding relief pitching, not just in the Little League World Series (where he earned the team's only save), but throughout District 35 and regional play.

Not enough can be said about the coaching staff, led by manager Eric Smith. He, pitching coach Trevor Tomei and assistant coach Mike Slate built a cohesive group that gasped and applied the fundamentals of the game. Their commitment to the team and the families was nothing short of remarkable. They didn't just teach the boys on-the-field skills; they instilled in them poise, determination and drive.

The Petaluma National Little League All Stars are talented ballplayers, but they also succeeded because of grit, hustle and desire. Most importantly, at every step along the way, they revealed themselves to be poised young men of strong character. They demonstrated sportsmanship in victory and in defeat. They were models of teamwork and discipline, qualities that will serve them well throughout their lives.

And they were backed up by a tight-knit community that couldn't have been more enthusiastic and supportive. There were generous fundraising efforts to allow family members to travel to Williamsport to see the games in person. There was hardly a movie theater, restaurant or bar in town that wasn't showing the games. Their effort was inspiring. It filled us with pride. What fun it was to see them have so much fun.

The Petaluma National Little League All-Stars exemplify what is best about youth sports. They have been true to the mission and values of Little League Baseball. Their performance on and off the field is a testament to their coaches, their parents and their teachers. These boys are unquestionably champions. They are America's future, giving us great confidence for our country. Today we honor and salute the Petaluma National Little League All-Stars.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for women and families affected by ovarian cancer. In 2012, it is estimated that approximately 22,280 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and 15,500 will die of the disease. In my state, Arizona,

an estimated 11,090 women will die from ovarian cancer this year. Too many American women—sisters, daughters, nieces, wives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers—are losing their lives to this disease.

Because ovarian cancer screening or early detection test do not currently exist, organizations stress that ''until there's a test, awareness is best.'' I commend the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance for its steadfast commitment to make women aware of the risk factors, signs, and symptoms of ovarian cancer and for its advocacy on behalf of women and families touched by this devastating disease. I also would like to commend the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance's Partner Member groups in Arizona.

Experts recommend that women see a gynecologist if they experience any of the often subtle symptoms of ovarian cancer daily for more than a few weeks. Four major symptoms of ovarian cancer include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, and frequent or urgent need to urinate. I ask all of my colleagues to become familiar with these symptoms and to share the information with their friends, family, staff, and constituents.

Ovarian cancer is the ninth most common cancer among women and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths, making it the deadliest of gynecologic cancers. If ovarian cancer is treated before it has spread outside the ovary, the five-year survival rate is 93 percent. Currently, only 15 percent of ovarian cancers are found at such an early stage and overall the relative five-year survival rate is 46 percent. I urge my colleagues to help make women aware of the potential warning signs to prevent future deaths. Experts acknowledge that symptoms can be vague and may be associated with other medical conditions, however, as the saying goes, it is better to be safe than sorry.

September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month—an important time during which ovarian cancer organizations, advocates, and others will be helping to raise awareness about the disease and its symptoms. Teal is the official color for ovarian cancer, like pink is for breast cancer. My staff and I will be wearing teal or teal ribbons to indicate our support of the ovarian cancer community and their efforts, including increasing awareness of the symptoms, boosting federal funding for ovarian cancer awareness, and expanding federal research to improve treatments and support the development of a desperately needed screening or early detection test.

I urge my colleagues and their staffs to join me in recognizing September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and to join with us in wearing teal throughout September to increase public knowledge about this deadly disease.

HONORING CITY COUNCILMAN GREG NORDBAK

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greg Nordbak and his 18 years of public service to the people of Whittier, California. Greg and his wife Donna have called Whittier home since 1980, and they have been fixtures in Whittier civic life ever since.

Since beginning the first of his five terms on the Whittier City Council in 1994, Greg has worked tirelessly to ensure Whittier remains safe for its residents and economically vibrant for its business community. Under his tenure, Whittier has seen the creation of various city resources such as the Whittier Greenway Trail acquisition and development, the construction of the Parnel Park Community and Senior Center, a new Whittier Police Headquarters Building, Pio Pico State Historic Park Renovation, the Uptown Whittier Specific Plan, the Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan, and release of Fred C. Nelles property for development.

Over the years, Greg's civic involvement has grown exponentially to include proudly serving as Chairman of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA), as past president of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, as a former Board Member of the Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project (WRHAP), as well as volunteering with the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier, the Skills Foundation, and the Rio Hondo Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Over the past decade, Greg has always worked to ensure that Whittier operates on firm financial footing and never outside its fiscal means. While the broader economy has impacted many cities throughout Southern California, Whittier has managed to maintain funding for all city services and capital improvement projects. Greg Nordbak is a big reason why Whittier can continue to deliver for its residents.

From one public servant to another, I praise Greg Nordbak and commend him on his many years of outstanding public service and dedication to the City of Whittier and the community. Whittier would not be the community it is today without him.

A TRIBUTE TO NEIL ARMSTRONG, A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero, Neil Alden Armstrong whose recent passing has impacted not only family members and those who were close to him, but also a nation that will forever salute his unforgettable step onto the surface of our moon.

Born August 5, 1930; Armstrong lifted off the runway for the first time at the age of two on a Ford Trimotor nicknamed ''The Tin Goose.'' As a young man, he found a passion in flying planes, becoming flight certified early in life at the age of fifteen. It is no surprise that he studied aerospace engineering at Purdue University as a member of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps under the Holloway Plan.

After completing two years of college, Armstrong was ordered to enroll in flight training in Pensacola, Florida on the path to becoming an active duty Naval Aviator. Armstrong's resolute character and bravery reached a new pedestal after he was shot down in combat during the Korean War. He returned to Purdue University, graduated in 1955, and took an assignment to continue his Navy service at Edward's Air Force Base, where he subsequently earned a masters degree in aeronautics. Soon after, he flew as a civilian pilot for NASA's parent agency, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), in Cleveland, Ohio.

As a test pilot, Armstrong was exposed to innovative military aircraft, playing a central role in helping to refine and improve aeronautic technologies. Armstrong's ascension as a strong leader was inevitable as respect for his reliable character and yet humble personality was recognized within the ranks of the military and space elite.

In 1958, after a successful tenure piloting aircraft as both a civilian and military airman, Armstrong was recruited into the Air Force's ''Man in Space Soonest,'' division. He piloted some of the earliest aircraft to be engineered to breach the Earth's atmosphere and outpace the speed of sound surpassing 4,000 miles per hour. This was a very exciting era in space innovation, which remains close to our hearts in Florida's Space Coast, where many residents, including myself, were fortunate enough to be employed by NASA's Apollo program in the late 1960's.

Over the course of Armstrong's career as an astronaut he logged thousands of hours in preparation for space travel. Relentless in the pursuit to harvest knowledge, he became a college professor after his retirement from NASA. Armstrong's commitment to his work and his unwavering receptiveness of challenge after challenge set a precedent, hand in hand, complimenting the world-shadowing message of the American space revolution. He was not simply a man with a technical ability to fly, rather a renaissance example of humble character and passionate conviction for the advancement of humankind.

Those of us who were alive on July 20, 1969, will never forget what we felt as an American space pioneer, Neil Armstrong, stepped from the lunar module and was the first human to place foot on the moon. ''That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'' are a constant reminder of human achievement and American ingenuity and they serve as a constant reminder to that the seemingly impossible can be achieved.

An American icon has passed after eighty-two fulfilling years. Neil Armstrong's chronicled achievements will be forever observed in history and he will never be forgotten as the father of lunar exploration. He was a wonderful human being, a true gentleman, honest, sincere, and seemingly unaffected by his many accomplishments and notoriety. He will continue to serve as a role model and an inspiration for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED DR. WILLIAM ''BILL'' MALOY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of

Northwest Florida's beloved William ''Bill'' Maloy.

Dr. Maloy was born in Des Moines, Iowa and grew up in Omaha, Nebraska. During World War II, he answered the call of duty and served our Nation with honor and distinction in the United States Navy. He was awarded the Silver Star for his gallantry in action. After the war, Dr. Maloy attended the University of Nebraska where he earned a bachelor's and master's degree in education, while also being commissioned into the Naval Reserves. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and came to Pensacola, Florida, intending to pursue a naval career; however, Dr. Maloy soon realized that he had a true passion and aptitude for teaching, and after the end of the war, he dedicated himself to education.

Dr. Maloy began his teaching career in Northwest Florida as a teacher and assistant dean at Pensacola High School (PHS). After two years at PHS, Dr. Maloy moved to Tallahassee to pursue his doctorate degree in educational technology. This experience led Dr. Maloy to appreciate the important role that technology would play in education, and he proved to be a strong proponent of integrating technology into the curriculum throughout his career. After completing his doctorate in 1958, Dr. Maloy moved back to Pensacola to serve as Assistant Principal at Escambia High School.

In 1959, Dr. Maloy began working with the Florida Department of Education, helping to spearhead Florida's first efforts to utilize new technology as a teaching tool. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, Dr. Maloy again answered our nation's call and served as Executive Officer and subsequently Commanding Officer of the USS *Tweedie*, a *Butler*-class destroyer escort. After finishing his service, he accepted a position at Florida State University, where he became Assistant Dean of the College of Education. His expertise and dedication to education led him to serve as Education Advisor to two Florida governors, before becoming the Senior Civilian Advisor to the Chief of Naval Education and Training. In 1978, he was appointed to the Florida Board of Regents, the governing body for the State University System of Florida, and helped oversee the state's public universities.

In 1992, Dr. Maloy was elected as Superintendent of Schools in Escambia County. As Superintendent, he was credited with beginning the technological revolution in the school district, and he helped move the district to the forefront of instructional education technology adopting applications to help improve student experience and performance. In 1996, he retired as Superintendent and moved to the University of West Florida where he taught until his retirement in 2009.

Dr. Maloy was a loving and dedicated husband and father who instilled in his children the importance of education in helping to improve the lives of every child in America. Two of Dr. Maloy's sons went on to become educators, continuing the family legacy of promoting excellence in education. Family was everything to Dr. Maloy, and he was a true inspiration to his four children, fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

To some, Dr. Bill Maloy will be remembered as a world-class educator and innovator who saw the importance of technology in education and helped to implement it in the classroom. To others, he will be remembered as a true patriot who served his country with honor and distinction in World War II and the Korean War. To his family, he will most fondly be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His contributions to education in Northwest Florida and throughout the entire State have improved the lives of countless students.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life and selfless service of Dr. William ''Bill'' Maloy. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to the entire Maloy family.

CELEBRATING THE ROCKLEDGE JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM'S WORLD SERIES VICTORY

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rockledge Junior League Baseball team for winning the Junior League World Series championship at Heritage Park in Taylor, Michigan on August 18, 2012.

Thirty-two years after the Junior League Baseball World Series was established in 1981, Rockledge became the tenth Florida team to bring home a championship.

The team dominated across the state of Florida, with a record of 11–0. Rockledge continued forward to defeat five state champions from Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. They traveled for 1,158 miles and 19 hours to Michigan with a record of 16–0 as the USA Southeast regional title holder, and triumphed to become the USA bracket leader. Only team Aruba, the international title holder, was standing between the ambitions of Rockledge team members, who were led by Manager David Clanton and Coaches Tom Hall and Robbie Robedeau.

The championship began with a quick 5–2 lead as Rockledge asserted its presence. Justin Robedeau, Kevin Clanton, Trevor Payne, Andrew Parrish, Mason Studstill, Blake Beyel, Brady Martello, Michael Hall, Gavin Spinneweber, and Jackson Parker each maintained their confidence while Aruba inched closer, shortening the gap 9–8 in the 6th inning.

The Rockledge All Stars kept their composure and brought home a 12–10 win in the 8th inning. Managed by an exceptional coaching staff, each teammate played a major role in winning the World Series title, with a final 22–0 post season record. We salute the Rockledge Junior League Baseball team for their success and the measure to which they represented our community and state.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 14

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on the situation in Syria.

SVC–217

2:30 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kevin K. Washburn, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.

SD–628

SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 3265, to amend the Federal Power Act to remove the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to collect land use fees for land that has been sold, exchanged, or otherwise transferred from Federal ownership but that is subject to a power site reservation, H.R. 2842, to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, S. 3464, to amend the Mni Wiconi Project Act of 1988 to facilitate completion of the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply System, and S. 3483, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon.

SD–366

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 3391, to amend section 353 of the Public Health Service Act with respect to suspension, revocation, and limitation of laboratory certification, an original bill entitled, ''Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act of 2012'', S. 1440, to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity, and nomination lists in the Public Health Service.

SD–430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine homeland threats and agency responses.

SD–342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD–226

2 p.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine eliminating waste and fraud in Medicare, focusing

on an examination of prior authorization requirements for power mobility devices.

SD–562

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 2215, to create jobs in the United States by increasing United States exports to Africa by at least 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years, S. 2318, to authorize the Secretary of State to pay a reward to combat transnational organized crime and for information concerning foreign nationals wanted by international criminal tribunals, S. 3310, to direct the President, in consultation with the Department of State, United States Agency for International Development, Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Department of Defense, to establish guidelines for United States foreign assistance programs, S. 3331, to provide for universal intercountry adoption accreditation standards, S. 3341, to require a quadrennial diplomacy and development review, S. Con. Res. 50, expressing the sense of Congress regarding actions to preserve and advance the multistakeholder governance model under which the Internet has thrived, S. Res. 516, expressing the sense of the Senate on the restitution of or compensation for property seized during the Nazi and Communist eras, S. Res. 466, calling for the release from prison of former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko, S. Res. 543, to express the sense of the Senate on international parental child abductionthe nominations of Richard G. Olson, of New Mexico, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Department of State, and John Hardy Isakson, of Georgia, and Patrick J. Leahy, of Vermont, both to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-seventh Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and lists in the Foreign Service.

S–116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine five years of the ''America COMPETES Act'', focusing on progress, challenges, and next steps.

SR–253

Judiciary

Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine hate crimes and the threat of domestic extremism.

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 investing in an effective Federal workforce.

SD–342

SEPTEMBER 20

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine offshore profit shifting and the U.S. tax code.

SD–G50

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine advancing the Federal-tribal relationship through self-governance and self-determination.

SD–628

SEPTEMBER 25

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving financial accountability at the Department of Defense.

SD–342

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6241–S6287

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3530–3536, and S. Res. 551–553. **Pages S6270–71**

Measures Reported:

S. 46, to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. (S. Rept. No. 112–210) **Page S6270**

Measures Passed:

Frederick Douglass Statue: Senate passed H.R. 6336, to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Frederick Douglass from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol. **Pages S6284–85**

Deaths of Americans at U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya: Senate agreed to S. Res. 551, commending the 4 American public servants who died in Benghazi, Libya, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, for their tireless efforts on behalf of the American people and condemning the violent attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi. **Pages S6285–S86**

National Principals Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 552, recognizing the month of October 2012 as ''National Principals Month''. **Page S6286**

National Falls Prevention Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 553, designating September 22, 2012, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'' to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults. **Page S6287**

Measures Considered:

Veterans Jobs Corps Act: Senate began consideration of S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S6243–60**

Pending:

Reid (for Murray) Amendment No. 2789, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6259**

Reid Amendment No. 2808 (to Amendment No. 2789), to change the enactment date. **Page S6259**

Reid Amendment No. 2809 (to Amendment No. 2808), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6259**

Reid Amendment No. 2810 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2789), to change the enactment date. **Page S6259**

Reid Amendment No. 2811 (to Amendment No. 2810), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6259**

Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 2812, to change the enactment date. **Page S6259**

Reid Amendment No. 2813 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 2812), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6259**

Reid Amendment No. 2814 (to Amendment No. 2813), of a perfecting nature. **Pages S6259–60**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Reid (for Murray) Amendment No. 2789, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, September 14, 2012. **Page S6260**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Reid (for Murray) Amendment No. 2789. **Page S6260**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 84 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 192), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S6259**

Family and Business Tax Cut Certainty Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3521, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions. **Pages S6260–61**

Messages from the House: **Page S6266**

Measures Referred: **Page S6266**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S6266**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6266–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6271–72**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6272–74**

Additional Statements: Pages S6261–66

Amendments Submitted: Pages S6274–84

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S6284

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S6284

Privileges of the Floor: Pages S6284–85

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—192) Page S6259

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 9:38 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6287.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

LOW-EARTH ORBIT TO MARS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the path from low-Earth orbit to Mars, after receiving testimony from Fuk Li, Director, Mars Exploration Directorate, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and John Grunsfeld, Associate Administrator, Science Mission Directorate, both of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Charles F. Kennel, Chair, National Research Council Space Studies Board, Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences, The National Academies, and University of California San Diego Scripps Institute of Oceanography; John Grotzinger, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena; Steven W. Squyres, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; and Jim Maser, Pratt and Whitney Rocketdyne, Los Angeles, California.

NUCLEAR WASTE ADMINISTRATION ACT

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 3469, to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a consensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste, after receiving testimony from General Brent Scowcroft, Co-Chairman, and Richard A. Meserve, Commissioner, both of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future; Peter Lyons, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy; Henry B. Barron, Constellation Energy Nuclear Group, LLC, Baltimore, Maryland; and Geoffrey H. Fettus, Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, DC.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee with the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety concluded a joint oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's implementation of recommendations for enhancing nuclear reactor safety in the 21st century, after receiving testimony from Allison M. MacFarlane, Chairman, and Kristine L. Svinicki, George Apostolakis, William D. Magwood, IV, and William C. Ostendorff, each a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

UPDATE ON SYRIA AND IRAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on an intelligence update on Syria and Iran from national security briefers.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Joseph E. Macmanus, of New York, to be Representative to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador, Sharon English Woods Villarosa, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, and Walter North, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands, and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the future of the General Services Administration, after receiving testimony from Daniel Tangherlini, Acting Administrator, and Brian D. Miller, Inspector General, both of the General Services Administration.

CITIZENS UNITED

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the *Citizens United* court and the continuing importance of the "Voting Rights Act", after receiving testimony from Senator Tester; Anthony Johnstone, University of Montana School of Law, Missoula; and Michael A. Carvin, Jones Day, and Elisabeth MacNamara, League of Women Voters of the United States, both of Washington, DC.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 3340, to improve and enhance the programs and activities of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding suicide

prevention and resilience and behavioral health disorders for members of the Armed Forces and veterans, with amendments;

S. 3322, to strengthen enforcement and clarify certain provisions of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, and chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, and to reconcile, restore, clarify, and conform similar provisions in other related civil rights statutes;

S. 3313, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, to improve health care furnished by the Department, with amendments;

S. 2259, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2012, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans;

S. 2241, to ensure that veterans have the information and protections they require to make informed decisions regarding use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance; and

S. 1707, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the conditions under which certain persons may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 6377–6387; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 137; and H. Res. 780 were introduced. **Pages H5922–23**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H5923**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2356, to enhance homeland security by improving efforts to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from an attack with a weapon of mass destruction, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–665, Pt. 1);

H.R. 3479, to reauthorize Federal natural hazards reduction programs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–666, Pt. 1);

H. Res. 778, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 117) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6365) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to replace the sequester established by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (H. Rept. 112–667); and

H. Res. 779, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6213) to limit further taxpayer exposure from the loan guarantee program established under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 112–668). **Page H5922**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Buerkle to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5863**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:58 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H5869**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Matthew Mello, The Church of the Resurrection, Lakeland, Florida. **Page H5869**

Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act: The House passed H.R. 5544, to authorize and expedite a land exchange involving National Forest System land in the Laurentian District of the Superior National Forest and certain other National Forest System land in the State of Minnesota that has limited recreational and conservation resources and lands owned by the State of Minnesota in trust for the public school system that are largely scattered in checkerboard fashion within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and have important recreational, scenic, and conservation resources, by a recorded vote of 225 ayes to 189 noes, Roll No. 568. **Pages H5873–90**

Rejected the Ellison motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 183 ayes to 233 noes, Roll No. 567. **Pages H5888–90**

Pursuant to the rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112–30, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 112–660, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the

original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule. **Page H5879**

Rejected:

McCollum amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 112–660) that sought to ensure tribal treaty rights are preserved and tribes are consulted (by a recorded vote of 201 ayes to 213 noes, Roll No. 563); **Pages H5880–81, H5885–86**

Holt amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 112–660) that sought to restore public participation in development of this proposed land exchange, which is prohibited under H.R. 5544 (by a recorded vote of 177 ayes to 236 noes, Roll No. 564); **Pages H5881–82, H5886–87**

Ellison amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 112–660) that sought to ensure that no National Forest System lands shall be included in the exchange where the inclusion or use of the lands is likely to have a negative impact on private property, property values, and small businesses (by a recorded vote of 190 ayes to 225 noes, Roll No. 565); and **Pages H5882–84, H5887**

Grijalva amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 112–660) that sought to strike the unusual appraisal language from H.R. 5544 and replace it with standard appraisal provisions used in federal land exchanges (by a recorded vote of 191 ayes to 223 noes, Roll No. 566). **Pages H5884–85, H5887–88**

H. Res. 773, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5544) and (H.R. 5949), was agreed to yesterday, September 11th.

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of Ambassador Stevens and the American personnel killed in Libya. **Page H5886**

FISA Amendments Act Reauthorization Act of 2012: The House passed H.R. 5949, to extend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 for five years, by a yea-and-nay vote of 301 yeas to 118 nays, Roll No. 569. **Pages H5890–H5901**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H5890**

H. Res. 773, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5544) and (H.R. 5949), was agreed to yesterday, September 11th.

Recess: The House recessed at 4:29 p.m. and reconvened at 4:44 p.m. **Page H5900**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated yesterday, September 11th:

Public Transit Security and Local Law Enforcement Support Act: H.R. 3857, amended, to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to include as an eligible use the sustainment of specialized operational teams used by local law enforcement under the Transit Security Grant Program, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 355 yeas to 62 nays, Roll No. 570 and **Page H5901**

American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2012: H.R. 5865, amended, to promote the growth and competitiveness of American manufacturing, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 339 yeas to 77 nays, Roll No. 571. **Pages H5901–02**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and six recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5885–86, H5886–87, H5887, H5887–88, H5889–90, H5890, H5900–01, H5901 and H5902. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Committee Meetings

LEARNING FROM THE PAST AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Operational Support: Learning from the Past and Preparing for the Future''. Testimony was heard from Alan F. Estevez, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness; Brigadier General Craig C. Crenshaw, USMC, Vice Director, J–4, Joint Staff; Moshe Schwartz, Specialist in Defense Acquisition, Congressional Research Service; and Tim DiNapoli, Acting Director for Acquisitions and Sourcing, Government Accountability Office.

EXPANDING THE POWER OF BIG LABOR: THE NRLB'S GROWING INTRUSION INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pension; and Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training held a joint hearing entitled ''Expanding the Power of Big Labor: The NRLB's Growing Intrusion into Higher Education''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing entitled ''Where the Jobs Are: There's an App for That''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DOE'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX: CHALLENGES TO SAFETY, SECURITY, AND TAXPAYER STEWARDSHIP

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''DOE's Nuclear Weapons Complex: Challenges to Safety, Security, and Taxpayer Stewardship''. Testimony was heard from Daniel B. Poneman, Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy; Glenn S. Podonsky, Chief Health Safety and Security Officer, Department of Energy; Gregory H. Friedman, Inspector General, Department of Energy; Mark E. Gaffigan, Managing Director, Natural Resources and Environment Team, Government Accountability Office.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a markup of H.R. 2827, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to clarify provisions relating to the regulation of municipal advisors, and for other purposes; and H.R. 6361, the ''Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2102''. H.R. 6361 was ordered reported, without amendment; and H.R. 2827 was ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup of H.R. 6313, to promote peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime territorial disputes in the South China Sea and its environs and other maritime areas adjacent to the East Asian mainland; and hearing entitled ''Beijing as an Emerging Power in the South China Sea''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ORGAN HARVESTING OF RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL DISSIDENTS BY THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; and Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights held a joint hearing entitled ''Organ Harvesting of Religious and Political Dissidents by the Chinese Communist Party''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EMP THREAT: EXAMINING THE CONSEQUENCES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies held a hearing entitled ''The EMP Threat: Examining the Consequences''. Testimony was heard from Representative Trent Franks (AZ); Joseph McClelland Director, Office of Electric Reliability, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Brandon Wales, Director, Homeland Infrastructure Threat and Risk Analysis Center, Department of Homeland Security; Michael A. Aimone, Director, Business Enterprise Integration, Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Installations, Office of Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense; and a public witness.

RESILIENT COMMUNICATIONS: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE ADVANCEMENTS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communication held a hearing entitled ''Resilient Communications: Current Challenges and Future Advancements''. Testimony was heard from Bobbie Stempfley, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, Department of Homeland Security; David Turetsky, Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission; and public witnesses.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S ABUSE OF POWER

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Obama Administration's Abuse of Power''. Testimony was heard from Senator Mike Lee (UT); and public witnesses.

DAWOOD NATIONAL MILITARY HOSPITAL AFGHANISTAN: WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT WENT WRONG?

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations, held a hearing entitled ''Dawood National Military Hospital Afghanistan: What Happened and What Went Wrong?''. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, United States Army; Major General Gary S. Patton, United States Army; and Kenneth P. Moorefield, Deputy Inspector General for Special Plans and Operations, Department of Defense.

NO MORE SOLYNDRAS ACT; NATIONAL SECURITY AND JOB PROTECTION ACT; AND CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 6213, the ''No More Solyndras Act''; H.R. 6365, the ''National Security and Job Protection Act''; and H.J. Res. 117 the ''Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013''. The Committee granted a closed rule for H.J. Res. 117. The rule provides for one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be

considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. The resolution further provides for a closed rule for H.R. 6365. The rule provides for one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. The Committee reported an additional rule granting, by a record vote of 8–3, a structured rule for H.R. 6213. The rule provides for 90 minutes of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112–31 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule also authorizes the Speaker to entertain motions to suspend the rules at any time on the legislative day of September 20, 2012 or September 21, 2012. Testimony was heard from Chairman Rogers (KY), and Representatives Dicks, Garrett, Van Hollen, Stearns, Rush, and Whitfield.

USER FEES IN THE AVIATION INDUSTRY: TURBULENCE AHEAD

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''User Fees in the Aviation Industry: Turbulence Ahead''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING NASA'S DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM AND ORION CREW CAPSULE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing entitled ''Examining NASA's Development of the Space Launch System and Orion Crew Capsule''. Testimony was heard from Daniel L. Dumbacher, Deputy Associate Administrator for Exploration Systems Development, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and public witnesses.

MISMANAGEMENT OF FUNDS AT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND THE IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF WEATHER FORECASTING

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing entitled ''Mismanagement of Funds at the National Weather Service and the Impact on the Future of Weather Forecasting''. Testimony heard from Kathryn D. Sullivan, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction and Deputy Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; Todd J. Zinser, Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General; Richard Hirn, General Counsel and Legislative Director, National Weather Service; and a public witness.

REVIEW OF AND UPDATE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF FAA'S NEXTGEN PROGRAM

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled ''A Review of and Update on the Management of FAA's NextGen Program''. Testimony was heard from John D. Porcari, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation; Michael P. Huerta, Acting Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration; Calvin L. Scovel III, Inspector General, Department of Transportation; Gerald Dillingham, Director, Physical Infrastructure Division, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

DIRECT DEPOSIT OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing entitled ''Direct Deposit of Social Security Benefits''. Testimony was heard from Richard Gregg, Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury; Theresa Gruber, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Operations, Social Security Administration; Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General, Social Security Administration; and a public witness.

IMPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGES AND RELATED PROVISIONS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Implementation of

Health Insurance Exchanges and Related Provisions''. Testimony was heard from Michael Consedine, Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner, Department of Insurance; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine holding the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) accountable, focusing on a review of the semi-annual report to Congress, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations Stephen D. Mull, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, and Dawn M. Liberi, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Burundi, both of the Department of State, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine improving college affordability, focusing on a view from the states, 10:30 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine issues related to the quality of disability benefit awards involving 300 case files of claimants under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs involving initial applications and subsequent levels of appeal, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 675, to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity, S. 1345, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and S. 1684, to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the impacts of the Carcieri and Patchak decisions, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 645, to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a permanent background check system, H.R. 2471, to amend section 2710 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that a video tape service provider may obtain a consumer's informed, written consent on an ongoing basis and that consent may be obtained through the Internet, S. 3486, to implement the provisions of the Hague Agreement and the Patent Law Treaty, S. 1894, to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, S. 3250, to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to provide for Debbie Smith grants for auditing sexual assault evidence backlogs and to establish a Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Registry, S. 3523, Innovative Design Protection Act, and the nomination of William Joseph Baer, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on F–22 pilot physiological issues, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing on the Federal Voting Assistance Program, 11:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on Y–12 Intrusion: Investigation, Response, and Accountability, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, markup of H.J. Res. 118, providing for congressional disapproval of the Administration's July 12, 2012 waiver of welfare work requirements, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''The American Energy Initiative'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Creating Opportunities through Improved Government Spectrum Efficiency'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Examining the Uses of Consumer Credit Data'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing entitled ''Combating the Haqqani Terrorist Network'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, hearing entitled ''Assessing U.S. Policy on Peacekeeping Operations in Africa'', 3 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Conditions at Camp Liberty: U.S. and Iraqi Failures'', 3 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications; and Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, joint hearing entitled ''BioWatch Present and Future: Meeting Mission Needs for Effective Biosurveillance?'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Committee Oversight of Department of the Interior: Questioning of Key Department of the Interior Officials'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services, and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs and the Committee on Financial Services' Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises, joint hearing entitled ''The JOBS Act: Importance of Prompt Implementation

for Entrepreneurs, Capital Formation, and Job Creation'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations, hearing entitled ''SIGAR Report: Document Destruction and Millions of Dollars Unaccounted for at the Department of Defense'', 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Capital Access and Tax, hearing entitled ''Adding to Uncertainty: Small Businesses' Perspectives on the Tax Cliff'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled ''Evaluating the Effectiveness of DOT's Truck and Bus Safety Program'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, markup of H.J. Res. 118, providing for congressional disapproval of the Administration's July 12, 2012 waiver of welfare work requirements, 9:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Investigation of the Security Threat Posed by Chinese Telecommunications Companies Huawei and ZTE'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, September 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: The Majority Leader will be recognized. The filing deadline for first-degree amendments to Reid (for Murray) Amendment No. 2789 to S. 3457, Veterans Jobs Corps Act, and the bill is at 1 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, September 13

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 6365—National Security and Job Protection Act (Subject to a Rule) and H.J. Res. 117—Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2013 (Subject to a Rule).

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