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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 21, 2013, at 11:30 a.m.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 14, 2013.

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

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

PRAYER

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

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

We pause now in Your presence and acknowledge our dependence on You.

We ask Your blessing upon the men and women of this, the people's House, who are returning to their stations here on Capitol Hill.

As the new Congress begins, help them, and indeed, help us all, to obey Your law, to do Your will, and to walk in Your way. Grant that they might be good in thought, gracious in word, generous in deed, and great in spirit.

Make this a glorious day in which all are glad to be alive and ready to serve You.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE 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.

AGENDA FOR 2013

(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. Madam Speaker, the start of a new congressional term brings tremendous opportunity for House Republicans to lead our Nation on a path to prosperity. Last week, I held three press conferences across the Second Congressional District of South Carolina from West Columbia to Aiken, North Augusta, and unveiled an agenda for this year.

For the past 4 years, our unemployment rate has averaged above 8 percent, the highest on record since the Great Depression. I look forward to continue working with House Republicans to encourage job creation through economic growth.

Additionally, Congress must limit Washington's out-of-control spending and reduce our $16 trillion debt to protect the value of the dollar for senior citizens and so that future generations do not endure the burden of higher taxes. I appreciate the efforts to encourage America's energy independence so that we do not have to rely on foreign resources.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, I look forward to advocating for our armed forces, military families, and veterans. In order to protect our national security, our military must remain the most capable in the world to provide peace through strength. Weakness leads to attack.

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

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HELP FOR ALL VETERANS

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Madam Speaker, in 1969 I did volunteer work at an Army hospital located in Aurora, Colorado, with a Junior Red Cross. This was at the height of the war in Vietnam and wounded soldiers were arriving at the hospital daily. Most were amputees who had lost their legs to mines and booby traps.

Sadly, as America became increasingly divided over the war in Vietnam they also became divided over their support for those who fought in that war. As a result, these wounded soldiers were unappreciated, isolated, and largely forgotten. To make matters worse, after they were stabilized, they were sent for their rehabilitation to VA facilities that were often substandard.

I look forward to using my new leadership position as the chairman for the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to help all veterans who have served our country and have earned our support.

I want to do everything in my power to make sure that our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are never treated like those who returned from Vietnam.

$1 TRILLION HIKE FOR AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, 2013, brand-new year, brand-new Congress. But what's this year also bringing? How about some brand-new taxes under the Affordable Care Act.

There is a medical device tax that started on January 1 of 2.3 percent on gross sales. This means some of our smallest companies, medical start-up companies, are going to pay a tax not on profits but their gross receipts.

The flexible spending account that many families rely upon to pay for recurring expenses with pre-tax dollars, especially those families with special needs children, those are now capped at $2,500.

Investment income, a surtax of 3.8 percent for people who earn above a certain level.

Taxes on medical deductions, it rises from a 7.5 percent reduction to 10 percent on adjusted gross income. That means our sickest constituents are going to be paying more taxes.

And then, finally, the Medicare payroll tax hike. For the first time, individuals who earn investment income are going to be paying a payroll tax of .9 percent. There will be an additional .9 percent on other income as well.

Let's be honest, the Affordable Care Act benefits are still over a year away, but boy, you got a big tax bill January 1.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Mrs. BLACK. As a nurse for over 40 years, I have spent my career protecting life. As a Congresswoman, I am proud to continue this critical fight for life.

With former Congressman Mike Pence's blessing, I have reintroduced his legislation, the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act.

This bill will ensure that no Federal funds are given to Planned Parenthood or any other organization that abuses their privileges as health care providers and fails to protect life.

It is long past time for Congress to respect the will of the American people and to stop taxpayer-funded abortions, a heinous abuse of the law and destruction of innocent life.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for life and to support this important legislation.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 4, 2013.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 4, 2013 at 2:35 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 41.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Friday, January 4, 2013:

H.R. 41, to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program.

□ 1410

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Appropriations:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2013.

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

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I respectfully request a leave of absence from the Appropriations Committee in the 113th Congress, effective today.

Sincerely,

STEVE ISRAEL,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Appropriations:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2013.

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

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I will be taking a leave of absence from the House Appropriations Committee for the remainder of the 113th Congress.

As you are aware, I was elected by the full Democratic Caucus to serve as the Ranking Member on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence this Congress. I intend to return to the Appropriations Committee in the future.

Thank you for your help with this matter. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATIONS AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEES ON THE JUDICIARY AND OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committees on the Judiciary and Oversight and Government Reform:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2013.

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

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to join the Committee on Appropriations, I hereby take a leave of absence from my seat on the Committee on the Judiciary, effective today.

Sincerely,

MIKE QUIGLEY,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2013.

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

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to join the Committee on Appropriations, I hereby take a leave of absence from my seat on the Committee on the Judiciary, effective today.

Sincerely,

MIKE QUIGLEY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATIONS AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEES ON ARMED SERVICES AND AGRICULTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committees on Armed Services and Agriculture:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2013.

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

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to join the Committee on Appropriations, I hereby resign my seat on both the Armed Services Committee and the Committee on Agriculture, effective today.

Sincerely,

BILL OWENS,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Financial Services:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2013.

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

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to rejoin the Judiciary Committee, I hereby take a leave of absence with seniority retained from the Financial Services Committee, effective today. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

LUIS V. GUTIERREZ,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to join the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I hereby resign my seat on the Homeland Security Committee, effective today.

Sincerely,

JANICE HAHN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on the Budget:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2013.

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

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to join the Committee on Financial Services, I hereby resign my seat on the Budget Committee, effective today.

Sincerely,

DENNY HECK,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 5 p.m.

SANDY RECOVERY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 219) to improve and streamline disaster assistance for Hurricane Sandy, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 219

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Public assistance program alternative procedures.
Sec. 3. Federal assistance to individuals and households.
Sec. 4. Hazard mitigation.
Sec. 5. Dispute resolution pilot program.
Sec. 6. Unified Federal review.
Sec. 7. Simplified procedures.
Sec. 8. Essential assistance.
Sec. 9. Individual assistance factors.
Sec. 10. Tribal requests for a major disaster or emergency declaration under the Stafford Act.
Sec. 11. Recommendations for reducing costs of future disasters.

SEC. 2. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.

Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second section 425 (relating to essential service providers) as section 427; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 428. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.

''(a) APPROVAL OF PROJECTS.—The President, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, may approve projects under the alternative procedures adopted under this section for any major disaster or emergency declared on or after the date of enactment of this section. The Administrator may also apply the alternate procedures adopted under this section to a major disaster or emergency declared before enactment of this Act for which construction has not begun as of the date of enactment of this Act.

''(b) ADOPTION.—The Administrator, in coordination with States, tribal and local governments, and owners or operators of private nonprofit facilities, may adopt alternative procedures to administer assistance provided under sections 403(a)(3)(A), 406, 407, and 502(a)(5).

''(c) GOALS OF PROCEDURES.—The alternative procedures adopted under subsection (a) shall further the goals of—

''(1) reducing the costs to the Federal Government of providing such assistance;

''(2) increasing flexibility in the administration of such assistance;

''(3) expediting the provision of such assistance to a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility; and

''(4) providing financial incentives and disincentives for a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility for the timely and cost-effective completion of projects with such assistance.

''(d) PARTICIPATION.—Participation in the alternative procedures adopted under this section shall be at the election of a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility consistent with procedures determined by the Administrator.

''(e) MINIMUM PROCEDURES.—The alternative procedures adopted under this section shall include the following:

''(1) For repair, restoration, and replacement of damaged facilities under section 406—

''(A) making grants on the basis of fixed estimates, if the State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of the private nonprofit facility agrees to be responsible for any actual costs that exceed the estimate;

''(B) providing an option for a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility to elect to receive an in-lieu contribution, without reduction, on the basis of estimates of—

''(i) the cost of repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility owned or controlled by the State, tribal or local government or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility; and

''(ii) management expenses;

''(C) consolidating, to the extent determined appropriate by the Administrator, the facilities of a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility as a single project based upon the estimates adopted under the procedures;

''(D) if the actual costs of a project completed under the procedures are less than the estimated costs thereof, the Administrator may permit a grantee or subgrantee to use all or part of the excess funds for—

''(i) cost-effective activities that reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, or suffering from a major disaster; and

''(ii) other activities to improve future Public Assistance operations or planning;

''(E) in determining eligible costs under section 406, the Administrator shall make available, at an applicant's request and

where the Administrator or the certified cost estimate prepared by the applicant's professionally licensed engineers has estimated an eligible Federal share for a project of at least $5,000,000, an independent expert panel to validate the estimated eligible cost consistent with applicable regulations and policies implementing this section; and

''(F) in determining eligible costs under section 406, the Administrator shall, at the applicant's request, consider properly conducted and certified cost estimates prepared by professionally licensed engineers (mutually agreed upon by the Administrator and the applicant), to the extent that such estimates comply with applicable regulations, policy, and guidance.

''(2) For debris removal under sections 403(a)(3)(A), 407, and 502(a)(5)—

''(A) making grants on the basis of fixed estimates to provide financial incentives and disincentives for the timely or cost-effective completion if the State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of the private nonprofit facility agrees to be responsible to pay for any actual costs that exceed the estimate;

''(B) using a sliding scale for determining the Federal share for removal of debris and wreckage based on the time it takes to complete debris and wreckage removal;

''(C) allowing use of program income from recycled debris without offset to the grant amount;

''(D) reimbursing base and overtime wages for employees and extra hires of a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility performing or administering debris and wreckage removal;

''(E) providing incentives to a State or tribal or local government to have a debris management plan approved by the Administrator and have pre-qualified 1 or more debris and wreckage removal contractors before the date of declaration of the major disaster; and

''(F) if the actual costs of projects under subparagraph (A) are less than the estimated costs of the project, the Administrator may permit a grantee or subgrantee to use all or part of the excess funds for—

''(i) debris management planning;

''(ii) acquisition of debris management equipment for current or future use; and

''(iii) other activities to improve future debris removal operations, as determined by the Administrator.

''(f) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Until such time as the Administrator promulgates regulations to implement this section, the Administrator may—

''(1) waive notice and comment rulemaking, if the Administrator determines the waiver is necessary to expeditiously implement this section; and

''(2) carry out the alternative procedures under this section as a pilot program.

''(g) OVERTIME PAYMENTS.—The guidelines for reimbursement for costs under subsection (e)(2)(D) shall ensure that no State or local government is denied reimbursement for overtime payments that are required pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

''(h) REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than 3 years, and not later than 5 years, after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the alternative procedures for the repair, restoration, and replacement of damaged facilities under section 406 authorized under this section.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall contain an assessment of the effectiveness of the alternative procedures, including—

''(A) whether the alternative procedures helped to improve the general speed of disaster recovery;

''(B) the accuracy of the estimates relied upon;

''(C) whether the financial incentives and disincentives were effective;

''(D) whether the alternative procedures were cost effective;

''(E) whether the independent expert panel described in subsection (e)(1)(E) was effective; and

''(F) recommendations for whether the alternative procedures should be continued and any recommendations for changes to the alternative procedures.''.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS.

Section 408(c)(1)(B) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

(2) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) LEASE AND REPAIR OF RENTAL UNITS FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The President, to the extent the President determines it would be a cost-effective alternative to other temporary housing options, may—

''(aa) enter into lease agreements with owners of multifamily rental property located in areas covered by a major disaster declaration to house individuals and households eligible for assistance under this section; and

''(bb) make repairs or improvements to properties under such lease agreements, to the extent necessary to serve as safe and adequate temporary housing.

''(II) IMPROVEMENTS OR REPAIRS.—Under the terms of any lease agreement for property entered into under this subsection, the value of the improvements or repairs—

''(aa) shall be deducted from the value of the lease agreement; and

''(bb) may not exceed the value of the lease agreement.''; and

(3) in clause (iv) (as so redesignated) by striking ''clause (ii)'' and inserting ''clause (iii)''.

SEC. 4. HAZARD MITIGATION.

(a) STREAMLINED PROCEDURES; ADVANCE ASSISTANCE.—Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) STREAMLINED PROCEDURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of providing assistance under this section, the President shall ensure that—

''(A) adequate resources are devoted to ensure that applicable environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and historic preservation reviews under the National Historic Preservation Act are completed on an expeditious basis; and

''(B) the shortest existing applicable process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act is utilized.

''(2) AUTHORITY FOR OTHER EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—The President may utilize expedited procedures in addition to those required under paragraph (1) for the purpose of providing assistance under this section, such as procedures under the Prototype Programmatic Agreement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for the consideration of multiple structures as a group and for an analysis of the cost-effectiveness and fulfillment of cost-share requirements for proposed hazard mitigation measures.

''(e) ADVANCE ASSISTANCE.—The President may provide not more than 25 percent of the amount of the estimated cost of hazard mitigation measures to a State grantee eligible for a grant under this section before eligible costs are incurred.''.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF CRITERIA RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION OF HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE BY STATES.—Section 404(c)(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(c)(2)) is amended by inserting after ''applications submitted under paragraph (1).'' the following: ''Until such time as the Administrator promulgates regulations to implement this paragraph, the Administrator may waive notice and comment rulemaking, if the Administrator determines doing so is necessary to expeditiously implement this section, and may carry out this section as a pilot program.''.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The authority under the amendments made by this section shall apply to—

(1) any major disaster or emergency declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) a major disaster or emergency declared under that Act before the date of enactment of this Act for which the period for processing requests for assistance has not ended as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal emergency Management Agency.

(2) ELIGIBLE ASSISTANCE.—The term ''eligible assistance'' means assistance—

(A) under section 403, 406, or 407 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b, 5172, 5173);

(B) for which the legitimate amount in dispute is not less than $1,000,000, which sum the Administrator shall adjust annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor;

(C) for which the applicant has a non-Federal share; and

(D) for which the applicant has received a decision on a first appeal.

(b) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and in order to facilitate an efficient recovery from major disasters, the Administrator shall establish procedures under which an applicant may request the use of alternative dispute resolution, including arbitration by an independent review panel, to resolve disputes relating to eligible assistance.

(2) BINDING EFFECT.—A decision by an independent review panel under this section shall be binding upon the parties to the dispute.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—The procedures established under this section shall—

(A) allow a party of a dispute relating to eligible assistance to request an independent review panel for the review;

(B) require a party requesting an independent review panel as described in subparagraph (A) to agree to forgo rights to any further appeal of the dispute relating to any eligible assistance;

(C) require that the sponsor of an independent review panel for any alternative dispute resolution under this section be—

(i) an individual or entity unaffiliated with the dispute (which may include a Federal

agency, an administrative law judge, or a re-employed annuitant who was an employee of the Federal Government) selected by the Administrator; and

(ii) responsible for identifying and maintaining an adequate number of independent experts qualified to review and resolve disputes under this section;

(D) require an independent review panel to—

(i) resolve any remaining disputed issue in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and Agency interpretations of those laws through its published policies and guidance;

(ii) consider only evidence contained in the administrative record, as it existed at the time at which the Agency made its initial decision;

(iii) only set aside a decision of the Agency found to be arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law; and

(iv) in the case of a finding of material fact adverse to the claimant made on first appeal, only set aside or reverse such finding if the finding is clearly erroneous.

(E) require an independent review panel to expeditiously issue a written decision for any alternative dispute resolution under this section; and

(F) direct that if an independent review panel for any alternative dispute resolution under this section determines that the basis upon which a party submits a request for alternative dispute resolution is frivolous, the independent review panel shall direct the party to pay the reasonable costs to the Federal Emergency Management Agency relating to the review by the independent review panel. Any funds received by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the authority of this section shall be deposited to the credit of the appropriation or appropriations available for the eligible assistance in dispute on the date on which the funds are received.

(c) SUNSET.—A request for review by an independent review panel under this section may not be made after December 31, 2015.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the termination of authority under this section under subsection (c), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report analyzing the effectiveness of the program under this section.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a determination of the availability of data required to complete the report;

(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of the program under this section, including an assessment of whether the program expedited or delayed the disaster recovery process;

(C) an assessment of whether the program increased or decreased costs to administer section 403, 406, or 407 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act;

(D) an assessment of the procedures and safeguards that the independent review panels established to ensure objectivity and accuracy, and the extent to which they followed those procedures and safeguards;

(E) a recommendation as to whether any aspect of the program under this section should be made a permanent authority; and

(F) recommendations for any modifications to the authority or the administration of the authority under this section in order to improve the disaster recovery process.

SEC. 6. UNIFIED FEDERAL REVIEW.

Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (as amended by this Act) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 429. UNIFIED FEDERAL REVIEW.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, and in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the President shall establish an expedited and unified interagency review process to ensure compliance with environmental and historic requirements under Federal law relating to disaster recovery projects, in order to expedite the recovery process, consistent with applicable law.

''(b) CONTENTS.—The review process established under this section shall include mechanisms to expeditiously address delays that may occur during the recovery from a major disaster and be updated, as appropriate, consistent with applicable law.''.

SEC. 7. SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES.

Section 422 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189) is amended—

(1) by striking ''If the Federal estimate'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Federal estimate'';

(2) by inserting ''(or, if the Administrator has established a threshold under subsection (b), the amount established under subsection (b))'' after ''$35,000'' the first place it appears;

(3) by inserting ''or, if applicable, the amount established under subsection (b),'' after ''$35,000 amount'' the second place it appears; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) THRESHOLD.—

''(1) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the President, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (in this section referred to as the 'Administrator'), shall—

''(A) complete an analysis to determine whether an increase in the threshold for eligibility under subsection (a) is appropriate, which shall include consideration of cost-effectiveness, speed of recovery, capacity of grantees, past performance, and accountability measures; and

''(B) submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report regarding the analysis conducted under subparagraph (A).

''(2) AMOUNT.—After the Administrator submits the report required under paragraph (1), the President shall direct the Administrator to—

''(A) immediately establish a threshold for eligibility under this section in an appropriate amount, without regard to chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code; and

''(B) adjust the threshold annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor.

''(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the Administrator establishes a threshold under paragraph (2), and every 3 years thereafter, the President, acting through the Administrator, shall review the threshold for eligibility under this section.''.

SEC. 8. ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.—Section 408(e)(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading by inserting ''CHILD CARE,'' after ''DENTAL,''; and

(2) by inserting ''child care,'' after ''dental,''.

(b) SALARIES AND BENEFITS.—Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) SALARIES AND BENEFITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the President declares a major disaster or emergency for an area within the jurisdiction of a State, tribal, or local government, the President may reimburse the State, tribal, or local government for costs relating to—

''(A) basic pay and benefits for permanent employees of the State, tribal, or local government conducting emergency protective measures under this section, if—

''(i) the work is not typically performed by the employees; and

''(ii) the type of work may otherwise be carried out by contract or agreement with private organizations, firms, or individuals.; or

''(B) overtime and hazardous duty compensation for permanent employees of the State, tribal, or local government conducting emergency protective measures under this section.

''(2) OVERTIME.—The guidelines for reimbursement for costs under paragraph (1) shall ensure that no State, tribal, or local government is denied reimbursement for overtime payments that are required pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

''(3) NO EFFECT ON MUTUAL AID PACTS.—Nothing in this subsection shall affect the ability of the President to reimburse labor force expenses provided pursuant to an authorized mutual aid pact.''.

SEC. 9. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE FACTORS.

In order to provide more objective criteria for evaluating the need for assistance to individuals, to clarify the threshold for eligibility and to speed a declaration of a major disaster or emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in cooperation with representatives of State, tribal, and local emergency management agencies, shall review, update, and revise through rulemaking the factors considered under section 206.48 of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations (including section 206.48(b)(2) of such title relating to trauma and the specific conditions or losses that contribute to trauma), to measure the severity, magnitude, and impact of a disaster.

SEC. 10. TRIBAL REQUESTS FOR A MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY DECLARATION UNDER THE STAFFORD ACT.

(a) MAJOR DISASTER REQUESTS.—Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) is amended—

(1) by striking ''All requests for a declaration'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—All requests for a declaration''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT REQUESTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive of an affected Indian tribal government may submit a request for a declaration by the President that a major disaster exists consistent with the requirements of subsection (a).

''(2) REFERENCES.—In implementing assistance authorized by the President under this Act in response to a request of the Chief Executive of an affected Indian tribal government for a major disaster declaration, any reference in this title or title III (except sections 310 and 326) to a State or the Governor

of a State is deemed to refer to an affected Indian tribal government or the Chief Executive of an affected Indian tribal government, as appropriate.

''(3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit an Indian tribal government from receiving assistance under this title through a declaration made by the President at the request of a State under subsection (a) if the President does not make a declaration under this subsection for the same incident.

''(c) COST SHARE ADJUSTMENTS FOR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In providing assistance to an Indian tribal government under this title, the President may waive or adjust any payment of a non-Federal contribution with respect to the assistance if—

''(A) the President has the authority to waive or adjust the payment under another provision of this title; and

''(B) the President determines that the waiver or adjustment is necessary and appropriate.

''(2) CRITERIA FOR MAKING DETERMINATIONS.—The President shall establish criteria for making determinations under paragraph (1)(B).''.

(b) EMERGENCY REQUESTS.—Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT REQUESTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive of an affected Indian tribal government may submit a request for a declaration by the President that an emergency exists consistent with the requirements of subsection (a).

''(2) REFERENCES.—In implementing assistance authorized by the President under this title in response to a request of the Chief Executive of an affected Indian tribal government for an emergency declaration, any reference in this title or title III (except sections 310 and 326) to a State or the Governor of a State is deemed to refer to an affected Indian tribal government or the Chief Executive of an affected Indian tribal government, as appropriate.

''(3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit an Indian tribal government from receiving assistance under this title through a declaration made by the President at the request of a State under subsection (a) if the President does not make a declaration under this subsection for the same incident.''.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(B) by striking ''; and'' and inserting '', that is not an Indian tribal government as defined in paragraph (6); and'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (10) as paragraphs (7) through (11), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

''(6) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term 'Indian tribal government' means the governing body of any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe under the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 479a et seq.).''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(12) CHIEF EXECUTIVE.—The term 'Chief Executive' means the person who is the Chief, Chairman, Governor, President, or similar executive official of an Indian tribal government.''.

(d) REFERENCES.—Title I of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 102 the following:

''SEC. 103. REFERENCES.

''Except as otherwise specifically provided, any reference in this Act to 'State and local', 'State or local', 'State, and local', 'State, or local', or 'State, local' (including plurals) with respect to governments or officials and any reference to a 'local government' in sections 406(d)(3) and 417 is deemed to refer also to Indian tribal governments and officials, as appropriate.''.

(e) REGULATIONS.—

(1) ISSUANCE.—The President shall issue regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section.

(2) FACTORS.—In issuing the regulations, the President shall consider the unique conditions that affect the general welfare of Indian tribal governments.

SEC. 11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING COSTS OF FUTURE DISASTERS.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to Congress recommendations for the development of a national strategy for reducing future costs, loss of life, and injuries associated with extreme disaster events in vulnerable areas of the United States.

(b) NATIONAL STRATEGY.—The national strategy should—

(1) respect the constitutional role and responsibilities of Federal, State, and local governments and the private sector;

(2) consider the vulnerability of the United States to damage from flooding, severe weather events, and other hazards;

(3) analyze gaps and duplication of emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation measures provided by Federal, State, and local entities; and

(4) include recommendations on how to improve the resiliency of local communities and States for the purpose of lowering future costs of disaster response and recovery.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 219.

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

There was no objection.

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

I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for his leadership on this legislation. His knowledge and years of experience on these issues have been critical to crafting this legislation and bringing it before the House for consideration today. I also want to thank Ranking Member NORTON, Ranking Member RAHALL, and former Chairman MICA for all of their work and support for these reforms.

H.R. 219, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013, will save money and help devastated communities rebuild much faster than under current programs. However, in order to help those communities impacted by Sandy, the FEMA Administrator has made it very clear that these reforms must be signed into law by March 1. Many of these reforms were already passed by the House in September as part of H.R. 2903. There is also widespread and bipartisan support for these reforms in the Senate. In addition, this bill has strong support from key stakeholders and experts, representing emergency managers, State and local officials, and tribal communities. We know these reforms work. Chairman SHUSTER laid the groundwork in 2006 when his post-Katrina reform act authorized FEMA to conduct a number of recovery pilot programs.

The results are very clear.

In each case, costs were dramatically reduced, projects were completed faster, and their process was much more efficient. For example, without making permanent the debris removal pilot program the taxpayer could end up paying six times the cost for debris removal, and it will take much longer. The individuals and households pilot program incorporated in this bill would reduce costs by a similar amount and make temporary housing available faster.

In hearing after hearing before our committee, experts, FEMA, and the Office of the Inspector General have all testified communities will be rebuilt faster and taxpayers will save hundreds of millions of dollars with this bill. We know the current process is broken, and we finally know how to fix it, but we have to change the law by March or it will be too late to apply those lessons to the Sandy recovery. It has been nearly 8 years since Hurricane Katrina, and there are still projects that are unresolved. We don't want to have the same mistakes happen with Hurricane Sandy. These reforms will help address those programs, streamline the process, allow communities to rebuild faster and smarter, and save money.

The provisions of H.R. 219 are proven and commonsense reforms that have bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 219.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. RAHALL, and my good friend Mr. DENHAM for their very important work to bring this matter to the floor so soon after the recess. I'm sure everyone appreciates it, and I certainly associate myself with the remarks of Mr. DENHAM. He and I worked on the very passages he quoted.

I, therefore, rise in support of H.R. 219, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013. This bipartisan measure consists of reforms to expedite the recovery process for those communities that received disaster declarations for

Hurricane Sandy as well as for future Presidentially declared disasters. I do believe this may be the first time that some of these reforms with any significant event have been tested because many of the provisions included in the bill are matters that we have long worked for and that were incorporated into similar legislation in past Congresses. Several of the provisions will streamline the rebuilding process to provide jobs in the region and to achieve full recovery. The measure is also supported by the International Association of Emergency Managers, the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the National League of Cities, and more.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Congress enacted two pilot programs: one for debris removal and another allowing FEMA to make limited repairs instead of lease payments to provide housing when cheaper than using temporary trailers. Both pilot programs were successful and resulted in savings for the Federal Government. Local governments and emergency management professionals have discussed the need to make the debris removal program permanent in order to expedite debris recovery. The housing program will be especially useful in large urban areas, such as in New York City, where temporary trailers simply are not an option. This bill would codify both expired pilot programs, providing additional tools for FEMA to help communities recover.

This measure would also authorize FEMA to use fixed grants based on cost estimates at the request of the local community—another favorite we have been pressing for years. Although Congress authorized FEMA to use cost estimating 12 years ago, which is the way the insurance industry does it, for example, FEMA has not done so. The new authorization includes incentives for the local communities to use cost estimating by allowing them to rebuild according to today's needs and by eliminating long delays in the recovery process caused by cost disputes. Moreover, this provision explicitly authorizes FEMA and the applicant to mutually agree on a professionally licensed expert to prepare a cost estimate to be relied upon by FEMA instead of using an adversarial process in which both hire their own cost estimators, paid for by the Federal Government, and then get into a dispute as to which one is the best to use. This process alone will eliminate one of the most inefficient uses of Federal funds I have ever heard of in which FEMA pays for the State's experts to submit competing estimates of the costs of repair to the government's experts. No more of that. No more waste from that.

Finally, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held an oversight hearing last month on the preparedness, response to, and recovery from Hurricane Sandy. At that hearing, I questioned FEMA Administrator Fugate about the need to expedite the dispute resolution process. I am pleased to state that this bill includes a 3-year dispute resolution pilot program for FEMA to draft procedures in order to expedite project closure and to decrease recovery costs caused by project delays.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1710

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I wish to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the new chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. SHUSTER.

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) for his leadership and for sponsoring this important legislation.

We are proud to have strong bipartisan support. Thanks go to Member RAHALL and Ms. HOLMES NORTON for her support on this and working closely with us. In fact, the gentlelady from Washington, D.C., and I worked very closely 8 years ago on many of these reforms that we're going to expand from pilot projects.

I would also like to acknowledge my predecessor and friend, our former chairman, Mr. MICA, who's been a leader on these issues, and also to thank Mr. PALAZZO from Mississippi, who offered important suggestions to improve this legislation.

I'm proud to be a cosponsor. These bipartisan Federal Emergency Management Agency and disaster recovery improvements will speed up and streamline Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts. And they will also, importantly, reduce costs.

We worked to target improvements that will specifically help communities in the immediate aftermath of Sandy. These are critical, bipartisan reforms supported by FEMA and key experts and stakeholders. We understand from FEMA Administrator Fugate that these reforms must be enacted by March 1 to help the recovery from Hurricane Sandy.

I have worked on these issues since serving as chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Management, as I mentioned, with the gentlelady from Washington, 8 years ago. At that time, I witnessed the devastation following Hurricane Katrina. We saw how our emergency management capability broke down, and significant reforms were needed. We crafted legislation to put FEMA back together again within the Department of Homeland Security, reformed and strengthened our response capability and created pilot programs to test out innovative ways to improve our recovery process.

While we have made significant improvements in disaster preparedness and response since Katrina, there is so much red tape in the recovery programs that rebuilding takes several years longer than it should. The longer communities take to rebuild, the higher the economic losses to those communities and the more it costs the taxpayers.

The pilot programs we created after Katrina laid the foundation for many of these reforms. From the debris removal and public assistance pilot program to the individual and household pilot programs, the savings were significant, and in some cases up to six times less expensive. And these pilot programs did not just save money, but they actually got things done faster.

The Sandy Recovery Improvement Act builds on the important work we started after Hurricane Katrina. Specifically, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act will: streamline environmental review procedures; allow greater flexibility to reduce rebuilding time and lower costs; reduce debris removal costs; provide flexibility and less expensive housing costs; and call for recommendations for reducing costs for future disasters.

As the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I look forward to working on a FEMA reauthorization bill in the future and moving other important FEMA reforms later in Congress.

However, today I know FEMA needs these reforms, and so I urge all my colleagues to support this in order for us to save hundreds of millions of dollars in Sandy recovery.

Ms. NORTON. First, let me say I appreciate the gentleman's remarks and comparing what we are going through here to what we all went through. He and I were both on the committee after Hurricane Katrina. I can tell you, we never expected to see anything like it, particularly in this part of the country. I certainly agree that this is the time to finally get these reforms done. This is the time to get it done, when we've got a huge Katrina-like event and we've got everybody's attention and we're going to save millions upon millions of dollars. I thank the gentleman.

I'm pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from the District, and I commend the work of my colleagues on this bill. It has some good features and should help smooth the way for recovery from Hurricane Sandy.

The delay in getting this bill and, more importantly, the delay in getting the supplemental appropriations bill for Hurricane Sandy to the floor has only compounded problems for Sandy's victims in New Jersey and elsewhere. And I wish that this bill had included language removing a real impediment faced by our towns.

I'm told that the appropriators, in the legislation coming to the floor tomorrow, are showing unusual respect for House rules and won't use their supplemental appropriations bill to change legislation but only to appropriate funds, so that the standard 65/35 Army Corps of Engineers formula will

not be changed. In other words, towns must put up 35 percent of the project cost for the Corps of Engineers to make the repairs that they would make. The construction costs are high. Many towns in my State will not be able to come up with the 35 percent cost share match for a multimillion dollar construction project. But the appropriators aren't authorizers, they say. Well, what we have before us now is coming from the authorizing committee. They could have fixed this, and I wish this bill had been brought up in such a way that we could fix this match, as the President had asked in his request for the emergency funds.

This bill should streamline the process, but we should have a 90/10 match so that these towns that are strapped for funds because of the damage of Hurricane Sandy and because they've exceeded their borrowing limits would be able to come up with a smaller amount of money so that the construction by the Corps of Engineers could get underway.

I'm happy to see this streamlined process that will get aid to individuals and municipalities in the wake of future storms like Hurricane Sandy. I wish that we could have used this opportunity to fix the 65/35 match and make it a 90/10 match, as the President had requested. That certainly would have helped the towns in New Jersey and Connecticut and New York.

I thank the gentlelady for yielding me the time.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I would just remind the gentleman from New Jersey that this bill was passed in September by this House and has been sitting in the Senate since September. Even though the President's own appointee, Director Fugate, has been asking for this bill, it has been sitting. So we're looking forward to a bipartisan solution that gets done before March so we can actually help out the Sandy relief fund.

I would just like to point to a couple quick facts. The New Orleans Youth Study Center project, as an example, as you'll see from this chart, Katrina was in 2005. Here's what the Governor's office has put together. This one project isn't going to be done until 2016. After 182 meetings and 7 years of bureaucratic red tape, this one project won't be done until 2016; and that's if all goes well, that's when Louisiana hopes to finish this. That's 11 years after Hurricane Katrina. The single biggest factor in cost increases is time, and these delays will almost double the project from $15 million to $28 million. FEMA has spent almost $5 million on a temporary facility alone.

There are literally thousands of projects like this across the gulf coast, and there will be thousands more of budget-busting projects in New York and New Jersey if we don't get these reforms signed into law.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I'd like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO).

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013. I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Congressman DENHAM, and the entire Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their work to bring this very important piece of disaster relief reform legislation to the floor this week.

Last Tuesday, I had the opportunity to travel to the hardest hit areas of New York and New Jersey to see firsthand the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy. It immediately reminded me of the devastation we in Mississippi experienced after Hurricane Katrina just 7 years ago. When you look at the response to hurricanes such as Sandy and Katrina and other superstorms that have hit in recent years, there is no doubt in my mind that we have a broken system.

Last week, I took a vote against propping up a bankrupt and broken system without any serious reforms, and today, I proudly stand before this body to advocate for some commonsense reforms on how we administer disaster relief.

The Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 scheduled for consideration today is the first step in a much longer process of reforming our disaster relief system. Improving resiliency, increasing mitigation efforts, and changing the way we pay for disaster relief will be key to this discussion.

I'm especially grateful for the committee's work in adding my language to this bill which will require FEMA to develop recommendations to Congress for a national strategy to reduce future costs and loss of life associated with these extreme weather events. Make no mistake, the Northeast needs our help now in ensuring the victims of Sandy receive the relief they so desperately require and need, and I want to encourage my colleagues to join me in support of both today's bill and the remaining Sandy relief measures we will take up this week. But I also believe there's no better time to address the very real needs of our broken disaster relief system. We must not only build back, we must build forward. That's why I'm proud to support this legislation to improve and streamline disaster relief in our country.

□ 1720

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to say that I'm pleased to see that the gentleman from Mississippi has done what we have always done when any part of our country faced a disaster, we all closed in, and we really closed in like nothing you've ever seen with Mississippi and Louisiana, and nobody from the east coast rose to have any problem with moving in.

The reforms this bill now contains, the reforms of Chairman DENHAM and me, and before Chairman DENHAM came to the Congress, reforms that had been in our bill for some time; and it is true that these have not come out, and we have got a lever now to get them out. And when we get them out, they're going to help Mississippi and Louisiana, and they have more of this than the east coast has ever had. And it's going to help all the unforeseen places that now we are seeing experience precisely what only certain parts of the country before had had to endure.

I'm pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank very much the gentlelady from the District of Columbia for her clarification; and I, frankly, thank you for having the wisdom in months and years back to have these corrections and these improvements in FEMA, and I know they welcome it.

I am a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and served as the ranking member on Transportation Security, but know firsthand, as the committee that shares jurisdiction over FEMA, firsthand, in living color, the catastrophe and tragedy of Hurricane Katrina; both in my visits and almost living in New Orleans, as many of our Members did, and then in welcoming over a quarter of a million-plus of New Orleanians into Houston, Texas, being there inside the Astrodome, and seeing eons and eons and layers of beds of people who are Americans and who were Americans who, one could not call them broken, those survivors, if you will, from Hurricane Katrina were not broken. They were people who had worked and had homes and paid taxes.

And so today, Madam Speaker, those who are survivors of Hurricane Sandy are not broken. They are not the cornerstone of the fault of bureaucracy or misuse. They are, in fact, survivors. They are Americans who need our help.

And I'd like to add to this discussion, certainly. I join and want to comment on one or two of the changes here. In particular, the individual assistance factors, I think, will be very helpful to expedite the declaration process for individuals.

I'm very grateful that one of the changes they made, thank goodness, and this is what happened to our seniors, fixing their homes instead of putting them in FEMA trailers. What a celebration.

How many had to stay in FEMA trailers down in the gulf forever and ever and ever while they watched their homes deteriorate because a few simple repairs could not be made. That is a much-needed step.

But I join my colleague from New Jersey and say, how can people who are broken and who are in need come up with 35 percent? And I hope that this will be one that is reconsidered.

Let me quickly suggest that I am in support of the $5.4 billion for FEMA disaster relief. I'm in support for the $5.4 billion for the Department of Transportation. Anybody who's been on the east coast and seen the transportation corridor and the congestion

and the synergism between New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New York realizes that this is crucial.

The $3.9 billion for community block grant, I am told that there are Hurricane Sandy islanders, people on Staten Island, people on Coney Island, who are living in New York downtown hotels. I'm sure in a better day they would enjoy living in high-rise, high-class hotels; but they are people that want to go back to their home, and I'm delighted that we'll have that.

And then I want to support the additional amendment that calls for, the gentleman from New Jersey, $33 billion unfettered dollars that will help additional resources.

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

Ms. NORTON. I yield the gentlewoman 30 more seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I believe that we should have done this last week. But I know that my colleagues will be reading the Constitution tomorrow, so let me read from article I, section 8:

> The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

My God, my God, can we provide for the general welfare of those Hurricane Sandy survivors who are not victims but have lost loved ones and, in fact, are the second most-costly hurricane in America's history, Katrina, Sandy, and Hurricane Ike.

I speak from what I know. I beg of this Congress to vote for the New Jersey amendment for $33 billion and, as well, the others; and let us be able to look back on their needs and go back to the table to help them if they are in need. The Constitution asks us to do that.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 219, "the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013," this bill is designed to speed up disaster relief granted through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) it amends Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to Expedite hazard mitigation projects by streamlining the environmental review and requires the President to establish an expedited review for environmental and historic requirements for rebuilding damage infrastructure. Further, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act will give local governments' greater flexibility to consolidate or rebuild facilities by allowing FEMA to issue fixed price grants on the basis of damaged estimates instead of a traditional entitlement guarantee to cover all cost increases over time.

Last month, the Administration requested $60.4 billion in federal aid to provide financial assistance to homeowners and businesses affected by Hurricane Sandy.

In the 112th Congress, on December 28, 2012, the Senate passed a $61 billion comprehensive aid package for the victims and communities by a vote of 62–32.

I am pleased that this body was able to pass H.R. 41, $9.7 billion bill which temporarily increased the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program.

Now that the President has signed H.R. 41, victims of Superstorm Sandy are finally able to receive some much-needed relief from the federal government.

However, the relief that H.R. 41 granted was limited in scope and insufficient to address the entirety of the situation faced by residents of the affected areas. The House must finish the job. Again the measure before us today does not appropriate additional funds, but it does attempt to address the backlog. This bill would:

Cut debris removal costs dramatically by utilizing reforms from a successful 2006 Debris Removal Pilot program that enable operations to be conducted in a more cost-effective manner and incentivize the completion of projects on-time and under budget.

Save money, as demonstrated by a 2006 pilot program, by authorizing FEMA to make limited repairs to existing housing structures when those repairs cost less than a lease payment for traditional FEMA trailers.

Adjudicate claim disputes quicker and avoid cost overruns, the bill establishes a limited dispute resolution pilot.

Require FEMA to review and update factors for individual assistance disaster declarations to make them less subjective. Provides for disaster declarations for tribal communities.

Direct FEMA to submit recommendations to Congress for the development of national strategy to reduce future costs, loss of life, and injuries associated with extreme disaster events.

Since this historic storm devastated the east coast in late October, the people impacted by the storm, particularly those in the Tri-State area of New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut, have been waiting patiently for the federal government to act as they continue to engage in efforts to rebuild their communities.

However, the time for patience has long since expired, and these Americans can no longer wait for Congress to act to provide comprehensive relief.

For families without a home, and for businesses without a storefront or customers, this situation has been an ongoing nightmare. These families and businesses have been waiting for Congress to join them in their struggle to pick up the pieces and put their communities back together.

The proposal before us is our opportunity to step up and help to restore these suffering communities; that is the role of the federal government.

Every state in this country is, at any given moment in time, at risk for experiencing a devastating and costly natural or manmade disaster. When state and local governments face overwhelming challenges that are too big and too expensive to ever hope to resolve in isolation, the federal government should be there to quickly assist them in their recovery. That is what makes us strong as a nation; that we can come together when necessary to prevent the pieces of our country from crumbling individually.

PREVIOUS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO DISASTER RELIEF

As the Representative for the 18th District in Texas, I have firsthand experience with the massive and protracted destruction that storms like this can cause both to property and, more importantly, to the lives of citizens who are left to rebuild their lives and restore all that they have lost.

After the initial disaster response and search and rescue phases, we must begin to rebuild, a process that calls for a long-term commitment from officials in state, local, and federal government.

We can all recall Hurricane Ike in 2008, which heavily impacted many constituents in my district. At least 74 people lost their lives in the State of Texas, with 28 in Harris County and 17 in Galveston. Over 200,000 homes in the Houston-Galveston region were left damaged or destroyed as a result of Ike.

Congress appropriated $3 billion to Texas to help finance the infrastructure and housing recovery, which included individual and household assistance, disaster unemployment assistance, public assistance grants to state and local government and non-profit organizations to pay for debris removal, emergency protective measures and road repairs, and low-interest disaster loans provided by the Small Business Administration.

My visits to the affected areas fundamentally evidenced the need for long-term recovery and to get people back on their feet. My constituents and others in the affected areas needed and greatly appreciated the federal assistance they received, and so now that Americans in other parts of our nation need our help, we must move in a bipartisan fashion to provide it.

EXTENT OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY SANDY

As a nation, we continue to mourn the loss of at least 132 people in the United States due to Superstorm Sandy (60 in New York, 48 New York City; 34 in New Jersey; 16 in Pennsylvania, 7 in West Virginia). Many more were lost to Sandy in the Carribbean.

As devastating as Hurricane Ike was, the damage to property it caused (an estimated $29.5 billion) the costs associated with Superstorm Sandy are expected to be significantly higher. While we do not yet know the final numbers, the total amount of property damage resulting from Superstorm Sandy exceeds $62 billion.

In terms of dollars of property destruction, this ranks Superstorm Sandy second only to Hurricane Katrina ($128 billion, adjusted for inflation) (note: Hurricane Ike ranks 3rd).

Most gas stations in New York City and New Jersey were closed because of power shortages and depleted fuel supplies. Long lines formed at gas stations that were expected to be open.

Food, shelter and clothing are basic necessities, and right now far too many people are without access to them during these holidays and in brutally cold weather. With more cold weather in sight, things are not going to get any easier for residents of those communities.

Economic conditions in many affected communities are stagnant; stalled because the federal government has yet to provide funding. It took 10 days for Congress to approve roughly $50 billion in aid for Katrina, but Congress has yet to provide a comprehensive aid package for those affected by Sandy for more than two months.

CONCLUSION

We need to restore a sense of calm and stability in the lives of people affected by Superstorm Sandy. We need to ensure that small businesses in the affected areas are able to rebound as expeditiously as possible so that they can get the local economies moving again.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act will speed up recovery efforts and reduce costs. I want to just touch on one important piece of this legislation. It will allow greater flexibility to reduce rebuilding time and lower costs. This gives the local governments greater flexibility to consolidate or rebuild facilities by allowing FEMA to issue fixed grants on the basis of damage estimates, instead of a traditional reimbursement program.

Why that's important—in my area, in the Central Valley of California, we had huge flooding; and as any emergency, you're not prepared. You didn't anticipate it, especially where we have such a huge shortage of water in the Central Valley.

When the flooding hit, there was a lot of miscommunication and misunderstanding among local, State and Federal Government, who pays for what, a lot of delays and waiting. With these cost estimates up front, we basically just say spend the money on those estimates, and the FEMA money is there immediately.

So we not only help to reduce costs; but most importantly, when you've got a devastated community, what you need is speed of recovery.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. I want to agree with the chairman of the subcommittee about cost estimates and how it saves money and how it is one of the many lessons learned that I think will be acted out in this bill.

Madam Speaker, this bill is a downpayment. We all understand this. We understand that the devastation done in four States, I believe it is, was of a magnitude of what we experienced for the first time at the gulf coast.

We are going to come around, and we're going to do what we're supposed to do at times like this. But when we have a major event like this, it does not pay to simply go along doing things the way we have always done them.

This is when things get corrected. This bill is a good step toward correcting what our committee and our subcommittee have tried to do for years now. I appreciate all the effort of my friends and colleagues on the other side and, of course, Mr. RAHALL and our friends who have also, in a bipartisan fashion, pushed for these changes and now have an opportunity to see how they work in a laboratory that is a very big one indeed, one far larger than we expected, but one from which we will also learn what is yet still to be learned about these major disasters.

Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am pleased to yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, just in closing, I want to talk about one final example, and it deals with the debris removal. Our bill dealing with debris removal will change, literally saving hundreds of millions of dollars.

Without the change in law, FEMA was able to get a 30-day pilot program. This is with Sandy, had a 30-day pilot program, where in New Jersey, utilizing the pilot program, they removed debris for $19 per cubic yard. In Long Island, using the Army Corps of Engineers, it was $129 per yard. That is a huge significant savings, one that, in the debris removal part of this, the 30-day pilot, it's time for it to move along and become part of law. We need to do this now.

This bill has broad support from a number of different areas, including the National League of Cities, the United States Conference of Mayors, the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the International Association of Emergency Managers, the Disaster Recovery Contractors Association, the National Association of Counties, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporation, just to name a few.

With that, Madam Speaker, I would ask for a favorable vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 219, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013. This bipartisan bill would improve how the Federal Government helps state, tribal and local communities respond to and recover from disasters by expediting the delivery of Federal assistance. The provisions will have an immediate impact in helping to expedite recovery in those areas that suffered damage from Hurricane Sandy and will help all communities that may experience future disasters.

We must continue to improve our disaster response programs to ensure that timely assistance is provided to individuals in need. At my request, this bill would require, within one year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to review and update its criteria for issuing Individual Assistance, in order to clarify the eligibility requirements, expedite the Federal government's decision-making process, and minimize bureaucratic delays.

Last year, the State of West Virginia received four Presidential disaster declarations, the last two in response to Hurricane Sandy and Derecho Storms. In both cases, West Virginians had to endure extended and widespread power outages, lasting weeks in some cases, as well as physical damage to their homes and businesses. The emotional trauma was severe with some areas were literally cut off from basic necessities like food, water, and medicine. These disasters proved costly and expensive and dwarfed the limited means of individuals, many of them seniors on fixed incomes who have been pummeled by multiple storms, to absorb uninsured costs on their own.

In both cases, FEMA denied my State's initial request for Individual Assistance, forcing the State to redo its damage assessments and appeal FEMA's decision. FEMA later reversed itself and awarded Individual Assistance to some, but not all, of the requesting West Virginia counties in regard to the Derecho Storm; so far, the appeal related to Sandy is still pending.

These delays leave uninsured disaster victims in limbo for weeks, unable to begin home repairs because they do not know what costs are reimbursable. State emergency officials need better guidance from FEMA about eligibility criteria for Individual Assistance, so that these delays can be avoided. Similarly, the criteria must be flexible enough to ensure that the Individual Assistance program accomplishes what it was created to do, which is to make financial assistance for uninsured losses available to families and individuals unable to recover on their own.

Another important provision of this bill is one that recognizes tribal sovereignty by authorizing all federally recognized Indian tribes to directly request that the President declare a disaster or emergency. This provision is based on a bill, H.R. 1953, that I introduced last Congress after consulting with Indian country and Indian organizations. It would treat all federally recognized Indian tribes as the sovereign governments that they are and creates a mechanism that affords all tribes the option to request a disaster declaration when a State in which they are located fails to do so.

This important measure is necessary because current law limits FEMA's ability to work directly with all Indian tribes when major disasters or emergency situations occurred. This language would improve federal emergency response and recovery efforts on Indian reservations and would amend the Stafford Act to align with the Federal Government's trust responsibilities. For more than a decade, tribal governments have sought this authorization to work directly with FEMA on emergency and disaster declarations from the President. My bill, and this provision, is supported by Indian Country and the Administration without qualification.

I appreciate the manner in which this bipartisan bill was developed and look forward to working with my Republican colleagues on other issues in a similar manner.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 219.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam 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 motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF THE HOUSE AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 21

Resolved, That at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, January 21, 2013, the House shall proceed to the West Front of the Capitol for the purpose of attending the inaugural ceremonies of the President and Vice President of the United States; and that upon the conclusion of the ceremonies the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow; when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2013; when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. on Friday, January 18, 2013; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 21, 2013.

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

There was no objection.

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:

Motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 219, by the yeas and nays, and approval of the Journal, by the yeas and nays.

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

SANDY RECOVERY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 219) to improve and streamline disaster assistance for Hurricane Sandy, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 0, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 8]

YEAS—403

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—26

Bishop (GA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Cantor
Capps
Carter
Costa
Crenshaw
Culberson
DeFazio
Fleischmann
Forbes
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Huffman
Johnson, Sam
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
McCaul
Napolitano
Rohrabacher
Ruppersberger
Schwartz
Sewell (AL)
Smith (WA)

□ 1851

Mr. MEEHAN changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I regret missing a floor vote on Monday, January 14, 2013. Had I registered my vote, I would have voted:

1) "yea" on rollcall 8, motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 219—The Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, January 14, 2013, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 8 due to a death in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 219—The Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 300, nays 95, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 9]

YEAS—300

Aderholt
Alexander
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bentivolio
Bera
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Cicilline
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Horsford
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Jones
Joyce
Keating
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pascrell
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reichert
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Takano
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—95

Amash
Benishek
Bishop (NY)
Brady (PA)
Burgess
Capuano
Castor (FL)
Chu
Clarke
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Conyers
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
DesJarlais
Duffy
Enyart
Fitzpatrick
Foxx
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gibson
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Israel
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jordan
Kinzinger (IL)
Lance
Langevin
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lummis
Lynch
Matheson
Matsui
McDermott
McGovern
McKinley
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Moore
Nolan
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Radel
Rangel
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rooney
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schock
Slaughter
Stivers
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tipton
Valadao
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—2

Gohmert
Owens

NOT VOTING—32

Bishop (UT)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Cantor
Capps
Carter
Costa
Crenshaw
Culberson
DeFazio
Diaz-Balart
Fleischmann
Forbes
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Johnson, Sam
Kaptur
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Maloney, Carolyn
McCarthy (NY)
Napolitano
Pitts
Rohrabacher
Ruppersberger
Schwartz
Sewell (AL)
Smith (WA)
Swalwell (CA)

□ 1900

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. Will the Representatives-elect present themselves in the well.

The Representatives-elect will please raise their right hands.

The Representatives-elect appeared at the bar of the House, and the Speaker administered the oath of office to them as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now Members of the 113th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from California and the gentlemen from Georgia and Oregon, the whole number of the House is 433.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The question is on the motion to adjourn.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 4, noes 397, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 10]

AYES—4

Blumenauer
Conyers
Hastings (WA)
Polis

NOES—397

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
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Davis, Danny
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DeGette
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Frankel (FL)
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Gingrey (GA)
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Graves (GA)
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Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
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Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
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Jeffries
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Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
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Keating
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Kind
King (IA)
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Kinzinger (IL)
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Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
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Lee (CA)
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Lofgren
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Lowenthal
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Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
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McCaul
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McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
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McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
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Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
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Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
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Pastor (AZ)
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Payne
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Poe (TX)
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Rice (SC)
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Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
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Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
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Van Hollen
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Weber (TX)
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Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—31

Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Cantor
Capps
Carter
Costa
Crenshaw
Culberson
DeFazio
Forbes
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Johnson, Sam
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Maloney, Carolyn
Miller (FL)
Moore
Napolitano
Pitts
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Ruppersberger
Schakowsky
Schwartz
Sewell (AL)
Smith (WA)
Tonko

□ 1918

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

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 22

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Ms. DelBene (to rank immediately after Mr. McGovern), Mr. Nolan, Mr. Gallego, Mr. Enyart, Mr. Vargas, Mrs. Bustos, and Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York.

(2) COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.—Mr. Quigley and Mr. Owens.

(3) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Carson of Indiana (to rank immediately after Mr. Barber).

(4) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. McDermott (to rank immediately after Ms. Castor of Florida), Mr. Jeffries, Mr. Pocan, Ms. Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico, Mr. Huffman, and Mr. Cárdenas.

(5) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Mr. Heck of Washington.

(6) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Ms. Meng, Ms. Frankel of Florida, Ms. Gabbard, and Mr. Castro of Texas.

(7) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Mr. Vela, Mr. Horsford, and Mr. Swalwell of California.

(8) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Gutierrez (to rank immediately after Mr. Deutch).

(9) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.—Ms. Shea-Porter, Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Garcia, and Mr. Cartwright.

(10) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Ms. Duckworth.

(11) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY.—Mr. Maffei, Mr. Grayson, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Peters of California, Mr. Kilmer, Mr. Bera, Ms. Esty, Mr. Veasey, Ms. Brownley of California, and Mr. Takano.

(12) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms. Hahn (to rank immediately after Ms. Chu), Mr. Payne (to rank immediately after Ms. Hahn), and Mr. Schneider.

(13) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—Ms. Titus, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Ruiz, Mrs. Negrete McLeod, Ms. Kuster, and Mr. O'Rourke.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTION FOR ME BUT NOT FOR THEE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as I speak on the House floor, there are guns by the doors—to the north, to the south, to the east, to the west—on the roof, on all of the entrances, and by the steps: the armed guards of the excellent Capitol Police protecting us.

But most citizens don't have government guards protecting them 24/7. Many people feel defenseless. Some people of this Chamber expect protection for themselves while advocating more restrictions on guns for the people of America—hypocrisy at its highest. In fact, one of the proposals for more gun laws mirrors the stringent D.C. gun laws. If the D.C. gun laws worked, D.C. would not be such a violent city. If D.C. gun laws worked, why do we have so many armed guards at the Capitol?

The elites forget it's the shooter, not the gun. They want more government power and control while taking away liberty from the rest of us. They want to punish the guns, not the people who commit crimes with guns. They want to keep their special government protection while redlining the Second Amendment for the people. They say, Protection for me but not for thee.

And that's just the way it is.

THE KING DREAM LIVES ON

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had the opportunity to experience a great event in the community where I live and work.

People had a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, who happened to have lived in that community of Chicago for a period of time. We went to all of the places that he used to eat and where all the meetings were held. It was quite an emotional experience, especially for those who were there and who got a chance to know him, to meet him, to shake his hand.

So I simply commend those residents, friends, neighbors of mine for making sure that the King dream lives on.

RIGHT THIS WRONG: PUNISHING PARENTLESS RUSSIAN CHILDREN

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Russian President recently signed a law to prevent American citizens from adopting Russian children. Sadly, it appears that the Russian Government is playing politics with children and is destroying the dreams of many Americans already in the process of adopting.

Last year alone, nearly 1,000 Russian children were adopted by American families, and many of these children struggled with physical disabilities. Every child deserves the opportunity to be raised in a caring environment. Over the past 20 years, almost 60,000 Russian children have been welcomed into the United States. Many of these children have found loving parents in my congressional district. Regrettably, President Putin's new law now takes away this possibility. This law not only prohibits future adoptions, but even more disturbingly, it attempts to put a halt to those already in progress.

Among those impacted is a family from my district, Marc and April Pongitory. They're in the process of adopting two children from Russia.

After months of paperwork, background checks and interviews, this family's dreams are now crushed, and there are dozens of cases out there just like the Pongitorys.'

It is truly disturbing that the Russian Government would punish parentless children in retaliation for an entirely unrelated American law. We all know that the wellbeing of children should not be used as a bargaining chip for diplomatic means. This week, I will be introducing a House resolution to right this wrong. Please join me in sending a clear message to the Russian Government.

H.R. 61: HOLDING BIG ABORTION BUSINESSES ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Big abortion businesses are getting rich, and they don't deserve or need our Federal tax dollars. That's why, on this first day of Congress, I introduced the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act. It's H.R. 61.

Planned Parenthood's 2011–2012 annual report showed they received a record $542 million in taxpayer funding while simultaneously performing a record number of abortions—actually, one every 94 seconds. So, in 94 seconds, they perform that abortion, and they take in over $1,600 in Federal taxpayer money. Their funding has increased by 11 percent in the last 2 years even though former employees of Planned Parenthood say the organization promotes sex-selection abortions, facilitates human trafficking, engages in coercive behavior, and fails to maintain financial records in accordance with the law.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 61 so we can get ahold of these big abortion businesses, hold them accountable, clean up the title X grant program and end taxpayer funding of abortion.

□ 1930

RIGHT OF GUN OWNERSHIP

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my grave concern over recent media reports that the administration is considering issuing executive orders to further their radical anti-gun control legislation.

The battle to protect the Second Amendment rights of all citizens rages on in Congress, and this is the appropriate place for such debate—not in the dark of night through executive orders as the Obama administration has become so fond of doing.

Gun control advocates prey on the fears of Americans, claiming that stricter gun laws will result in reduced gun violence. That theory is false and is dangerous to the sanctity of the United States Constitution. Security can only come through the preservation of individual liberties such as the right to defend one's home and one's family. We should protect the right to keep and bear arms as fiercely as we seek to protect the rights of free speech, the freedom of religion, and of due process.

I urge my colleagues to oppose any efforts by the administration to restrict the rights of gun ownership through executive orders and commit to the American people to tirelessly defend all of their constitutional rights on the floor of this House, including the right of gun ownership.

CONGRATULATING NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY ON FCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the North Dakota State University Bison and head coach Craig Bohl on winning another FCS national championship on January 5 this year in Frisco, Texas.

NDSU is well known as a student-focused, land grant research university with more than 14,000 students, offering over 100 majors, covering everything from architecture, pharmacy, food science and engineering, to business, biotechnology, music and interior design.

The victory over Sam Houston State was the Bison's second consecutive national championship, an accomplishment even more impressive when considering the Thundering Herd became a Division I program only 8 short years ago. I look forward to following the Bison on many more championship runs and am pleased that Coach Bohl has agreed to a multi-year contract extension rather than pursuing a career in politics.

CBC HOUR: A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. The Congressional Black Caucus, better known as the CBC, is proud to anchor this hour. My name is MARCIA FUDGE, and I represent the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, and I'm currently the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. CBC Members stand firm as the voice of the people and as the conscience of the Congress. We are dedicated to providing focused services to the citizens who elected us to these offices.

Tonight, the CBC will focus its attention on the culture of violence. With no end in sight, the culture of violence continues to permeate and define our society, Mr. Speaker. We cannot hide from it. It is everywhere we go.

Merriam-Webster defines an epidemic as ''something affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community, or region at the same time.'' It is clear the culture of violence is an American epidemic. It is time for us to face the music.

We are complicit in the violence that takes place in our Nation if we fail to strengthen our gun laws, if we fail to invest more resources into our mental health services, and address the issue of bullying. We must take meaningful and immediate action to eradicate the culture of violence in our country.

Mr. Speaker, this evening I am joined by a number of members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I now yield to the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. DANNY DAVIS.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for not only anchoring this hour, but also providing an opportunity for the rest of us.

I had decided to develop a statement, but then I had 16 young students visit me this afternoon from Oak Park, Illinois, and they presented to me their statement. Their statement was so similar to my statement that I told them that their statement was better than mine and I would use it. So I'm going to read it as they presented it to me. They said:

> Hello, my name is Joey Cofsky, and my name is Sebastian Torero, and we are here on behalf of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism to talk about gun violence prevention. We hope that you will offer support for the Fix Gun Checks Act when it is introduced.
>
> Unfortunately, it took an inconceivable amount of gun-related tragedies, and a recent catastrophic elementary school massacre, to once again raise awareness of the need for stricter gun laws. Nearly every day, I hear on the news that a common child has been shot to death in my very own city. Statistics furthermore illuminate this occurrence as eight young Americans die each day under the age of 19 from gun violence. By June of 2012, 228 people were killed in the city of Chicago. In that same period of time, 144 United States soldiers had been killed in Afghanistan. Instead of continuously cringing at these statistics in disbelief every time we read them, it is time to curb the pattern of violence that has made the inner-city streets more violent than our very own battlefields.
>
> Today marks the month anniversary of one of the most horrific mass shootings in our Nation's history. On this day, I personally think about the innocent 20 children whose

lives were prematurely taken at a peaceful elementary school. I wonder about the difference in the world those 20 children could have made. That day, we all seemed to realize we had seen this too many times before. Mass shootings grab our Nation by surprise, and after every one, we feel a sense of deja vu. At first, people's passion for change is reignited, and the driving force of action is full throttle; but as the weeks go by, the clamor dies down. The memory of the victims fades from our consciousness, that is, until another shooting occurs. I, and the people of this country, have grieved over too many caskets. It is time to match our words with actions.

In the Talmud, a collection of Jewish laws and lessons, we are taught that he who takes one life, it is as though he has destroyed a universe. And he who saves a life, it is as though he has saved a universe. As a Jew, and as a person, this quotation resonates strongly with me. It tells me that it is not only important to save lives in immediate danger, but to prevent the loss of life in general. It has become clear to many of us, and for some it has been clear for quite some time, that an effective way to prevent death in our country and in essence save a universe is to enact a policy that would stem the flow of gun violence. Gun violence in our country takes 12 times the amount of lives that it does in the other 25 wealthiest nations combined. It is clear that in our Nation, guns are a major problem.

We are told to save lives, and we can do that. So I would urge every American to know that lives saved is like saving a universe.

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In America, an average of 30,000 lives are lost to gun violence each year. This, and all we have said before it, explicitly demonstrates how dangerous guns can be, yet it can be easier to obtain a gun than it is to vote. 4 out of 10 guns are sold by unlicensed sellers with no background check conducted. Because of the Gun Show Loophole, anyone can walk up to a private set at a gun show, purchase a gun, and carry it out of the event. Domestic violence abusers, convicted felons, people with mental illnesses, and terrorists can purchase guns because of this loophole. 30% of illegally trafficked guns are connected to gun shows. Actions must be taken to prevent guns from falling into the hands of people who would not pass a background check, but can obtain a firearm because of this loophole. The Fix Gun Checks Act (H.R. 137) would eliminate this loophole by requiring background checks for any gun sales event that provides a venue for the sale or transaction of firearms. We thank you for cosponsoring this bill, and hope you will continue to support it in the future.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank my friend from Illinois for those words and for bringing us the words of young people who are affected by this violence every day.

Mr. Speaker, we are joined by the former chair of the CBC, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. First, let me thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE, our new chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, for bringing us here together tonight to discuss this important issue. Also, I wanted to say that Congresswoman FUDGE is such a tremendous leader and now, as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, has really chartered a very powerful course for equity, justice, and for nonviolence. So thank you very much for your leadership.

I can think of no more important subject than the culture of violence which Congresswoman FUDGE has brought us here together to discuss tonight, and specifically gun violence that has been destroying communities, taking lives, and injuring too many people for much too long across America.

□ 1940

As President Obama so eloquently said the Sunday after the tragedy in Newtown which shook the conscience of this country, and which we all still continue to mourn and offer our condolences to the families and friends and the entire community, We cannot accept this violence, the President said. This is visited on children year after year, and somehow is the price of freedom.

We cannot accept this. We cannot accept one more innocent life being lost to violence, not one in Newtown, not one in Chicago or Cleveland, not one in Oakland, California, not one in any town, in any city, in any school, in any theater or in any place of worship, in any mall, or in any of our neighborhoods.

We have an obligation to our children to ensure that Newtown marks a turning point that made us finally say enough is enough. We must come together to build an America where our children do not have to live in fear and where they do have a future.

Last week I was at an event in my district in west Oakland. It was the unveiling of a mural painted by several talented young artists. This Tree of Life mural depicted the hope and the faith that my young people have for a future without violence. Yet they've seen and experienced so much gun violence in their communities throughout their young lives.

Just over the weekend, 11 people were tragically shot in my congressional district. Too many of my constituents have been affected by gun violence, have pleaded for help in protecting their children from the horrors of gun violence, only to see the status quo continue at the Federal level.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take some serious action that includes commonsense measures such as Federal gun buyback programs, banning high-capacity magazines, expanding the 24-hour gun background check, closing the gun show loophole, and re-instituting the assault weapon ban. We need to do this immediately.

But we also need to work to end domestic violence in our homes and reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. For whatever reason, unfortunately, it got stuck last Congress. We need to do this right away.

We also must seek input from our young people, community stakeholders, faith communities and others. We can work together to identify the root causes of this Nation's more than 16,000 homicides a year.

Let me call to your attention the work of a magnificent community-based organization in my district that I actually am very proud of that I helped found in the early nineties called the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Center. These young people continue to work on conflict resolution and violence prevention efforts day and night, but they constantly tell us that their work is thwarted due to too many guns in the streets.

Finally, we must recognize gun violence as a critical public health crisis and continue to support comprehensive violence prevention plans.

This week, Congresswoman DELAURO and myself, we're offering an amendment that would end a prohibition, mind you—and Congresswoman FUDGE, this is mind-boggling when you see

that we have a prohibition at the Department of Health and Human Services that would not allow us to analyze gun violence in terms of public health. We have a prohibition against that. So we're trying to offer an amendment that would take away this prohibition.

As a psychiatric social worker by profession and someone who founded a community mental health center when the psychiatric facilities began to shut down in California, I understand firsthand why we need to help people struggling with mental illness, give them the treatment they need, and reduce the stigma associated with seeking help.

So I'm going to introduce, once again, my bill to add mental health counselors to our schools, which will help children and families struggling with emotional issues who could actually be on the brink; but if we had mental health counselors there, they could really help steer them away from whatever tragedy that could occur.

So we can't allow the status quo to continue, to allow our children and grandchildren to grow up in this culture of violence, in a world where violence threatens our schools, our homes, and our communities.

Let me thank again Congresswoman FUDGE for gathering us here tonight to discuss this very important issue. I just want to remind us that next Monday we will once again celebrate the birthday of our great drum major for justice, the prince of peace, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We must rededicate our lives and our work to the principles of nonviolence, which are more important now more than ever. Dr. King reminded us that violence should never be an option if we really want a world worthy of our children and grandchildren.

Yes, as a major part of this, it does mean getting guns off the streets and working for a culture of peace and security.

Thank you again.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from California because, as she was the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, it was she who gave me the opportunity to anchor this hour for my first 2 years as a freshman in this caucus, so I thank you.

My friend from Texas, Congressman AL GREEN, it is a pleasure to have you with us this evening.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you, Madam Chair. And I thank the Speaker for the time.

I congratulate you, Madam Chair, on being the newly elected chairperson of the CBC, and I pledge to work with you to do all that I can to assist you, not only with the many programs that we have, but also with ending this culture of violence.

Madam Chair, on this, the eve of the birthday of Dr. King, it is appropriate to quote him. He reminded us that the truest measure of the person is not where you stand in times of comfort and convenience, when all is right with the world, your health is good, your bills are paid, friends are all around. The truest measure of the person is where do you stand in times of challenge and controversy.

Challenge and controversy, when young people are dying in the street, when domestic violence is claiming the lives of spouses and paramours and lovers and friends, when churches are being shot up, where do you stand?

Let's talk for just a moment about some of these circumstances. I attended a funeral just recently. It was the funeral of Ms. Latasha Jones. Ms. Jones was killed on Christmas Eve, December 2012. She lost her life in the presence of her son. Her daughter lost her life as well, victim of domestic violence.

It's one thing to know and use the term ''victim,'' another thing to attend the funeral of a victim. It was a sad occasion. Mother and daughter, son there to only suffer heartache knowing that he will never see his mother or his sister again.

I have the program from that funeral, and I have the obituary. I shall place this in the RECORD.

LATASHA R. JONES

October 14, 1977–December 24, 2012

On October 14, 1977 in Houston, Texas, a baby girl was born to Clarence M. Jones and Patricia Jones. They named her Latasha Rochelle Jones. Latasha confessed to Christ at an early age at South Park Baptist Church, in Houston, Texas. She attended Houston area public schools and graduated from North Shore High School in 1997, in Houston, Texas.

On September 27, 1994, she had her first daughter: Chamarea' Schane' Hoskin. On February 8, 1999, she gave birth to her second daughter: JaKaela Neshae Newhouse. On May 24, 2005, she gave birth to her first son: Chance Javion-Lee Adams. Latasha was a kind-hearted, loving caregiver. She pursued her dream of caring for children while she was employed with many different daycare facilities. While employed at KinderCare, she was a Senior Quest Teacher. She truly had a passion for educating and nurturing children. Latasha also traveled down other avenues of care-giving by completing her education and dream of becoming a Certified Medical Assistant at PCI (Professional Careers Institute). Latasha completed the course and graduated on June 20, 2012. While attending PCI. Latasha was employed with Home Depot, where she worked very hard to provide for her family.

Latasha was preceded in death by her father, Clarence M. Jones, her grandmother Shirley McDonald, three cousins: Cheryl L. McDonald, Jermaine McDonald and Byron J. Scranton, her step-brother: Clarence Owens.

Her loving memory will linger on in the hearts of her Mother and Pow-Pow: Patricia A. Wilson and Earnest ''Lee'' Wilson, Sr.; her daughter: Chamarea' Hoskin, her son: Chance J.L. Adams; her sisters: Candi Jones, Alicia Jarmon (Jai Francis, Sr.), Rashaunda Jarmon; step-sister: Wendy W. Thomas (Randy) and Desiree Jarmon; step-brothers: Ernest L. Wilson, Jr. and Marcus Vivian; her nieces: Jailicia Martinez (Robert M.), Morgan Francis, Jordyn Lassaint, Avry Francis and Zoey Sarumi; her nephews: Jai Francis, Jr., Tristen Francis, Randall Thomas, Caden Francis, Seven Francis, Shia Francis and Tru Irven, a host of loving Aunts, Uncles, cousins her God-Mother Emori Davis, and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

May Latasha R.I.P. with her daughter, JaKaela.

JAKAELA N. NEWHOUSE

February 8, 1977–December 24, 2012

On February 8, 1999 in Houston, Texas, a baby girl was born to Herman Newhouse, Jr. and Latasha Jones. They named her JaKaela Neshae Newhouse. She attended Houston area public schools and was currently an 8th grade student at Killough Middle School, in Houston, Texas. She has two older sisters: Janesha McCartaney, who was born on July 19, 1991 and Chamarea' Schane' Hoskin, who was born on September 27, 1994. She became the proud big-sister to her younger brothers, Zaquarius Newhouse, who was born on December 12, 2003 and Chance Javion-Lee Adams, who was born on May 24, 2005.

JaKaela was a loving, curious and happy teenager. She was a very ''studious student'' who took pride in her schoolwork. Her favorite pastime was to Sci-Fi books. She loved her family and her best friend Shakira Romero.

JaKaela was preceded in death by her father Herman Newhouse, Jr., her grandfather Clarence M. Jones, her great-grandmother Shirley McDonald, three great-cousins: Cheryl L. McDonald, Jermaine McDonald and Byron J. Scranton, her uncle: Clarence Owens. Her loving memory will linger on in the hearts of her Grandmother and Pow-Pow: Patricia A. and Earnest ''Lee'' Wilson, Sr. and her paternal grandparents Herman and Norma Newhouse; her Step-Mother, Vondalin Johnson; her sisters: Janesha McCartaney and Chamarea' Hoskin, her Step-Sister, Quawntina Johnson; her brothers: Zaquarius Newhouse and Chance J.L. Adams; her Step-brother, Quiwnton Johnson; her aunts: Candi Jones, LaTricia Newhouse, Alicia Jarmon (Jai Francis, Sr.), Rashaunda Jarmon, Wendy W. Thomas (Randy) and Desiree Jarmon; her uncle: Ernest L. Wilson, Jr. and Marcus Vivian; her cousins: Jailicia Martinez (Robert M.), Morgan Francis, Jordyn Lassaint, Avry Francis, Zoey Sarumi, Jai Francis, Jr., Tristen Francis, Randall Thomas, Caden Francis, Seven Francis, Shia Francis and Tru Irven, a host of loving Great-Aunts, Great-Uncles, and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

May JaKaela R.I.P. in the arms of her mother, Latasha.

Gang violence. In my district, Robert Baptiste was a victim of gang violence, and on August 2012, at his funeral, there was a shootout at the church.

Where do you stand when you have gang violence and domestic violence?

Joshua Woods, 22 years of age, went out to buy a new pair of sneakers, December 2012. On the way home, accosted, lost his life, shot—died over sneakers.

I had the opportunity to speak to his mother just recently. It was a heartbreaking conversation for a mother to explain how her son worked hard, and this was something that he had worked hard for. He was a good kid. His mother loved him.

When the natural order of things is circumvented, it's very difficult to reconcile.

And then I would call to your attention Ryan Spikes, killed in a drive-by shooting at a spring break party. Indiscriminate violence.

Where do we stand is the question that Dr. King would put to us.

□ 1950

But he would also remind us that we must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we will perish together as fools. And the notion of a gun for a gun is not the solution. We've tried eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth. That only leaves us blind and toothless. Guns will lead to shoot-outs.

This is not the solution. We must do more, not only to rid society of these weapons of war, but also to help our children learn that they can live together as brothers and sisters. There is but one race, and that's the human race. We were all created by God to live in harmony, and we must teach our children that they should respect each other and live together with each other.

This is not an easy task. There will be no silver bullet, there will be no easy solution, but we have to do all that we can. When you can't do enough, you have a duty to do all that you can.

I pledge to do all that I can to work with you, Madam Chair, to make sure that we end domestic violence, gang violence, indiscriminate violence, and that we don't resort to a gun for a gun, which is a nouveau version of an eye for an eye.

I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank my friend. Thank you so very much.

I now yield to the vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and my good friend from New York, Representative YVETTE CLARKE.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), for summoning us to be a part of this Special Order this evening. It is quite timely as we mark the 1-month anniversary of the slaughter of the innocents in Newtown, Connecticut, as we all reflect on the many challenges that we face within our own neighborhoods, our own communities, of longstanding reckless gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, just last week a 90-year-old woman by the name of Gloria Johnson, 90 years old, was shot twice as she walked to the laundromat in East New York, Brooklyn. She lived 90 years to be gunned down in Brooklyn, New York.

Two weeks ago, AK–47 shells were found in Queens, New York, at the scene of the murder of a 17-year-old child—AK–47. You find those types of shells in Iraq, in Afghanistan, not in Queens, New York. But there's a new reality that we are all facing, and that is assault weapons in an urban environment.

And this summer a young 13-year-old boy named Ronald Wallace III was shot in the back by a barrage of gunfire in the streets of Brownsville, Brooklyn, within my own district.

Although New York City has some of the strictest gun laws in the Nation, senseless crimes like these occur all too frequently in my district and across New York City and in other urban communities across the United States.

In 2012, the New York City Police Department reported 226 incidents of handgun violence in Brooklyn, New York, alone.

Illegal gun trafficking and gaping holes in Federal background check requirements are to blame for many of these incidents. Eighty-five percent of the guns used in crimes in New York City are first purchased in States like Virginia and Georgia that do not extend the background check to purchase limitation requirements for private sellers.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with my fellow lawmakers in Congress, with Mayor Michael Bloomberg and with Governor Cuomo, in demanding Federal legislation that specifically addresses illegal trafficking of guns across State lines and the requirement of background checks in all gun purchase transactions.

To truly put an end to the random gun violence that plagues New York City and other urban areas, however, we must also address other policy areas that have profound effects on the level of gun violence that we see.

Yes, I agree that mental health and mental illness are important factors that have to be explored and addressed when trying to mitigate against gun violence; however, there's some additional factors that contribute to what has become tantamount to a public health crisis. One such factor is poor educational outcomes.

According to the American Economic Review, a 1-year increase in the average years of education completed reduces violent crime by nearly 30 percent. In fact, between 2000 and 2005, New York State increased its higher education expenditures by roughly 40 percent. During the same period, the State violent crime rate decreased by roughly 20 percent. These statistics are an indication that there is a direct correlation between investment in education and the reduction of violent crime, specifically gun crime.

It is my hope that any legislative measure brought to the floor for consideration also takes into account true and real investment in the inadequate or ineffectual educational systems across this Nation. By bolstering our educational institutions, we help set our children on a path to success instead of one that leads to violent crime, death, and incarceration.

Gun violence is not an inevitable part of life, yet it continues to plague our communities. We are not helpless in this endeavor. We owe it to our constituents, to our Nation, and to future generations to act with urgency and conviction to put an end to the senseless pattern of gun violence, not only in suburban America, but in every community across this Nation, urban America as well.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I look forward to working with you in whatever capacity necessary to save another family from the hurt, the harm, and the trauma of the senseless acts of violence that take place in our communities across this Nation due to illegal handguns and gun trafficking.

With that, Madam Chair, I thank you for yielding.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentlelady from New York.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that the gentlelady from New York has been a strong and steady voice in our caucus, and I so much appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my colleague from Ohio, who I'm so pleased has joined this House, the Honorable JOYCE BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to take my first opportunity to address my colleagues from the House floor, to participate in a discussion on an issue that I find very troubling, at a crisis point for our Nation.

But first let me thank our chairwoman, MARCIA FUDGE, for her outstanding leadership and for organizing the Special Order hour to address the issue of the senseless violence facing our Nation.

Our country, more than ever, is facing a culture of violence. Unfortunately, we are now living in a society where mass killings have gone from being an extremely rare occurrence to a common occurrence.

According to Harvard Health Policy Review, each year approximately 30,000 people in the United States die as a result of gunfire, and about 80,000 people are wounded. We are faced with living in a culture where, now, more than 6.6 million violent crimes—murder, rape, assault, and robbery—are committed each year.

□ 2000

We are living in a culture of violence where our children see 8,000 murders and 100,000 other acts of violence in media and in their communities at a very early age. Colleagues, these statistics are too many, and it is time for action now. This problem must be fixed. We must remember, when we talk about rights, children have a right to be safe.

So I applaud President Obama and Vice President BIDEN for proactively taking the necessary steps to address this critical issue. It's going to take all of us united, regardless of party affiliation or our differing views on constitutional rights, to stem this tide of violence.

More importantly, we must take a hard look at funding for mental health services and other services; we must look at synching technology to ensure proper and tighter access to firearms; we must place adequate controls on ammunition.

Bottom line: We must protect our schools, our communities. Children and families must be safe.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to make this issue of violence a priority

and to support our Nation's leadership as they work through resolving this challenge, which should not be difficult if we compromise and keep focusing on saving lives.

Madam Chair, I pledge to support you and to support all my other colleagues with the Congressional Black Caucus to make a difficult task safe and to protect the lives of our children and families from gunfire and a culture of violence.

I thank you for my time.

Ms. FUDGE. I so much thank the gentlelady from Ohio for participating. We certainly know how difficult this is going to be as we move forward, but I am pleased. Thank you very much.

I now yield to the gentleman from New Jersey, who has joined our caucus and we are so pleased to have him, the Honorable Representative DONALD PAYNE, Jr.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me first begin by thanking my good friend and colleague, my chairwoman, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE from the State of Ohio, for anchoring this evening's Special Order on the culture of violence.

Coming together to address gun violence and bullying in America is long overdue. There must be something extraordinary done to truly curb these atrocities from occurring in our communities. Too many innocent men, women, and children have died because of the ease of access to illegal firearms. Fifteen of the 25 worst mass shootings in our history have occurred in America in the last 50 years.

Harvard Injury Control Research Center studies indicate that in homes, cities, States, and regions in the U.S. where there are guns, both men and women are at a higher risk for homicide, particularly from firearms. These statistics are tragic. We must do something, and we must do something now.

On the issue of bullying, bullying is also a major concern in our Nation. Who will be able to tell what will become of the next generation if statistics continue to rise with each national report on bullying? I'm very sensitive to this issue because I have three young children at home, and I perish the thought that they would be subjected to such actions.

We are losing our next generation of poets, musicians, doctors, lawyers, scientists, and athletes to senseless gun violence and aggressive bullying. One out of every four teenagers is bullied and, furthermore, deterred from their academic potential. 282,000 students are physically bullied in secondary schools each month. One out of 10 children drop out of school because of bullying.

We must take measures to protect our Nation's future generations. From the mass murder at the movie theater in Colorado, to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, to the schoolyard killings at Mount Vernon Elementary School in Newark, New Jersey—four youngsters with their whole futures ahead of them were violently murdered by a gang behind a school—I have seen what damage guns can do in the wrong hands. Let us be steadfast in making sure that events like these never happen again.

Gun violence and bullying in America are not just problems, they are national health issues.

What are the solutions? Well, Federal action is yielding some progress. The Brady law of 1994 has blocked the sale of firearms to over 1.6 million felons, fugitives, and other individuals. Still, more is needed. Proactive approaches include renewing the assault weapons ban, closing the gun show loophole, mandating installation of trigger locks, and eliminating influxes of cheaply made weapons. This does not infringe on anyone's right to bear arms in this Nation, but we have to do things that make common sense.

There are guns that have been outlawed in this Nation's history. You cannot get a submachine gun. You cannot get a sawed-off shotgun. Why shouldn't assault weapons be added to that group?

Also, gun buyback programs in my district and my State have removed hundreds of guns from the streets, and I am considering offering legislation to bring these programs to scale on the Federal level to help stem the tide of violence. These measures would undoubtedly save lives.

Enough is enough. It is time to take action.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you so much. I thank the gentleman. I certainly am pleased to know how supportive you are of efforts to make this a safer country for our young people.

Mr. Speaker, each year, in its Uniform Crime Report, the FBI compiles a list of the cities with the most murders per capita. According to the most recent report, which uses data from 2011, there were over 3,300 murders that occurred in just 15 cities. There were 515 murders in New York City in 2011; 431 in Chicago, Illinois; 344 in Detroit, Michigan; 324 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; 297 in Los Angeles, California; 200 in New Orleans, Louisiana; 198 in Houston, Texas; 196 in Baltimore, Maryland; 133 in Dallas, Texas; 117 in Memphis, Tennessee; 116 in Phoenix, Arizona; 113 in St. Louis, Missouri; 108 in Washington, D.C.; 108 in Kansas City, Missouri; and 104 in Oakland, California.

Now, some people may think that violence is only prevalent in urban America, but that is just not true. Recent mass murders have occurred in places like Tucson, Arizona; Aurora, Colorado; Oak Creek, Wisconsin; and Newtown, Connecticut. Violence is truly all around us. It is at our movie theaters, our shopping centers, colleges, places of worship, and even our elementary schools.

During the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, a gunman took the lives of 26 people, including 20 children as young as the age of 5. The victims of this heinous crime were killed at a place that we all consider to be safe.

Since 1982, there have been more than 60 mass murders carried out with firearms across this country. We have had 19 mass shootings in the last 5 years alone. That is a rate of more than one every 4 months. The uptick in these types of crimes should be enough to push our Nation forward on reassessing our gun laws. Unfortunately, our country appears to be at a standstill. Each year, 30,000 Americans lose their lives as a result of gunfire, and about 80,000 Americans were wounded in that same period of time.

□ 2010

The number of gun crimes continues to be high; and yet, we, as a Nation, are hesitant to take immediate action to address this issue.

Thirty-three Americans are murdered with guns every single day. Our Nation has the distinction of having the highest rate of firearm violence in the world.

Proponents of gun rights say that there is an absolute right to bear arms. Mr. Speaker, I disagree. All rights are subject to reasonable restrictions. One can support the Second Amendment while also advocating for policies that keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people. We must act immediately on creating a comprehensive, national gun policy that eliminates loopholes in the laws, bans assault weapons, and places limits on high-capacity magazines.

Under current Federal law, background checks are only required for gun sales at licensed dealers. According to Mayors Against Illegal Guns, approximately 6.6 million guns are sold each year in America by unlicensed private sellers. That translates to 40 percent of all U.S. gun sales. These transactions typically occur online or at gun shows without the buyer having to pass a background check.

Federal law carves out a broad exception for private gun sellers who only make what are called ''occasional sales'' or who sell from a ''personal collection.'' What is problematic about this is that there's no set standard for what is considered an ''occasional'' sale.

In a national survey of inmates—listen to this—in a national survey of inmates conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, it was found that nearly 80 percent of those who used a handgun in a crime acquired it in a private transfer. In another troubling statistic, a 2009 New York City undercover investigation at seven gun shows in three States found that 63 percent of private sellers at those shows were willing to sell to someone who admitted that he couldn't pass a background check.

The private-sale loophole has made it far too easy for criminals to exploit the system to obtain guns. For example, in October 2012, Radcliffe Haughton was able to purchase a gun from a private

seller even though he was federally prohibited from doing so. His wife had initiated a restraining order against him. He used the gun that he purchased online to go to a spa where his wife worked. He killed her and two other people and injured four other people before killing himself.

Requiring uniform, criminal background checks for every gun sale is something that has garnered broad support. A 2012 survey by Republican pollster Frank Luntz revealed that 82 percent of gun owners, including 74 percent of National Rifle Association members, support requiring criminal background checks for potential gun owners. This is a prime example of a sensible gun regulation that should be implemented now.

Failing to fully enforce current laws can be just as bad as not having any laws at all, Mr. Speaker. Since its creation in 1999, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, better known as NICS, has prevented more than 1.7 million permit applications and gun sales to felons. The seriously mentally ill and drug abusers have also been stopped in some instances. But despite its success, NICS has a number of gaps and limitations that still enable firearms to be sold to dangerous people. Many prohibited purchasers are able to get their hands on guns because NICS is missing millions of relevant records due to lax reporting by State and Federal agencies.

Twenty-three States and the District of Columbia have submitted fewer than 100 mental health records to NICS—100. Seventeen States have submitted fewer than 10 mental health records, and four States have not submitted any mental health records at all. State substance abuse records have always been significantly underreported. Forty-four States have submitted fewer than 10 records to the Federal database, and 33 States have not submitted any records at all.

Federal agencies have also dragged their feet in fulfilling their reporting responsibilities. Despite being required to do so, many Federal agencies have shared very few mental health records. Only nine of the 60 Federal agencies listed in relevant FBI data have submitted any mental health records.

Incomplete records have allowed dangerous killers to purchase guns. In 2007, Seung Hui Cho shot and killed 32 people at Virginia Tech before taking his own life. Cho had been found mentally ill by a judge; and, as a result, he should have been prohibited from buying a gun. He was able to slip through the cracks and pass a background check at a licensed gun dealer because his mental health records were never submitted to NICS. It is clear that our background check system is broken and needs to be fixed.

The prevalence of assault weapons is another issue that raises great concern for me. These military-style weapons with high-capacity magazines tend to be the weapon of choice in mass shootings and police murders. Those kinds of weapons have been used to inflict the greatest amount of pain in the shortest amount of time.

In a study of high-profile shootings over the past 4 years, Mayors Against Illegal Guns has found that at least one-third of those shootings involved assault weapons and/or high-capacity magazines.

They were used in Newtown, Connecticut, on December 14, 2012, to kill 26 people; in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, on August 5 to kill six people and wound three others; in Aurora, Colorado, on July 20, 2012, to kill 12 people and injure 58 others; in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011, to kill six people and wound 13 others; in Fort Hood, Texas, on November 5, 2009, to kill 13 people and wound 34 others; and in Binghamton, New York, on April 3, 2009, to kill 13 people and injure four others.

Assault weapons are also a threat to our local law enforcement. On June 8, 2009, in Chesapeake, Virginia, a gunman shot two police officers with a semiautomatic AK–47 assault weapon, firing at least 30 rounds.

In St. Louis, Missouri, on January 7, 2010, Timothy Hendron entered the ABB, Inc. factory with two handguns, a shotgun, and a semiautomatic AK–47 rifle with high-capacity ammunition magazines. He fired approximately 115 rounds, killing three and wounding five before taking his own life. After the shooting, the police chief of St. Louis, Daniel Isom, said:

> Our officers didn't have sufficient weapons systems to engage a person with an AK–47.

On January 26, 2011, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, a police officer was ambushed by a teenager who fired a semiautomatic weapon 26 times. Responding to the crime, Oklahoma City Police Chief Bill Citty stated:

> There are just more and more assault rifles out there, and it is becoming a bigger threat to law enforcement each day. They are outgunned.

Reinstating the assault weapon ban must be a priority for our Nation. It is estimated that there are nearly 18 million assault weapons in circulation in the United States. A 2010 survey by the Police Executive Research Forum revealed that there has been an increase in criminal use of assault weapons since the Federal ban expired in 2004. Thirty-seven percent of police agencies have reported noticeable increases.

Weapons with the ability to carry out such deadly force do not belong on our streets, Mr. Speaker. There is no justification for the use of these weapons anywhere but on the battlefield for which they were designed. I firmly support banning assault weapons of all types.

A ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines has been endorsed by several organizations, including Mayors Against Illegal Guns, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Major Cities Chiefs Association, the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Police Executive Research Forum, the Police Foundation, and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

□ 2020

The culture of violence doesn't necessarily start with guns. It can often be traced back to mental health concerns and bullying.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's 2009 national survey on drug use and health, there were an estimated 45.1 million U.S. adults living with a mental illness. That is 20 percent of all American adults. Sadly, only 17 million of these adults received services to address their illness. A significant number of the country's inmates also have mental health problems. According to the Department of Justice's 2004 survey of inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities and its 2002 surveys in local jails, nearly 45 percent of all inmates in Federal prison have a mental health problem; over 55 percent of the inmates in State prison have a mental health problem; and nearly 65 percent of inmates in local jails have a mental problem.

We cannot continue to ignore the fact that we need to do more to address the issue of mental health. Turning our back on this problem will not make it go away.

The issue of bullying has become rampant in our society. Too many of our children are being bullied during and after school and on the Internet. According to Stomp Out Bullying, it is estimated that one out of four teens is bullied during their lifetime. Fifty-eight percent of kids admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online. More than 40 percent say it has happened to them more than once. Fifty-three percent of kids admit having said something mean or hurtful to another person online, and more than one in three has done it more than once. Fifty-eight percent have not told their parents or an adult about something mean or hurtful that happened to them online.

Many believe that bullying is a right of passage. I'm here to tell you that it is not. Bullying is intentional, it is cruel, and abusive. It can set the tone for a lifetime of hurt. Many people are never the same after being bullied. Depression, anxiety, and many other psychological problems can result from bullying. Some turn to substance abuse, even suicide.

Bullying is no joking matter. It is not something to be taken lightly. We must inform our children of the consequences of bullying. We must be attentive and listen to their cries for help. How many of our children need to fall victim to this cruel behavior before we are moved to act? We must address this issue now.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, it is very clear that we live in a culture of violence. The culture of violence has ravaged our communities, taking the lives of innocent Americans, ripping apart American families, and destroying families along the way. We must act now because our Nation is depending on us. Anyone who believes that it is okay to use a gun in an open theater is not really thinking very rationally. Someone who believes that you can put a police officer at every single entrance into a school is really not thinking very rationally.

We have to do something. No matter what our personal beliefs are, we are all here to work for the American public, not ourselves. We may have a personal opinion as to what should be done about guns, but the people of America are speaking, and we need to listen to them.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my serious concerns about the recent acts of violence throughout the United States. The tragedy that struck the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, last month was a devastating loss for the families and friends of the students and educators who were killed. As the second deadliest school shooting in U.S. history, the Newtown tragedy has underscored the fundamental need to reevaluate our approach to gun violence and mental illness.

Any strategy to reduce gun violence must be inclusive in its approach to finding a solution. Every viable consideration must be on the table as we look to enact comprehensive legislation at the federal level. With the total number of privately owned firearms in circulation estimated to be more than 270 million, we must take reasonable steps to ensure that these firearms do not fall into the wrong hands, while also protecting the Second Amendment rights of responsible gun owners.

The topic of mental illness is one that is neglected, particularly in regard to its connection to gun violence. In 2009, approximately 11 million adults in the United States had a serious mental illness. Forty percent of those adults did not receive any type of treatment for that illness. We now know that each of the shooters in the most recent incidents suffered from mental illness. Addressing mental illness can be a critical component of a comprehensive approach to reducing violence in our schools and other public places.

Mr. Speaker, we must take deliberate steps going forward to prevent another tragedy from occurring. There is absolutely no place for violence in our schools, and we are compelled to do everything within our power to avert future catastrophe. There is a large mental health component to this debate that needs greater consideration, and I hope that my colleagues will continue to take a holistic approach during this process.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, 113th Congress, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies:

Mr. BOEHNER, Ohio;
Mr. CANTOR, Virginia;
Ms. PELOSI, California.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2128

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) at 9 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 152, DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–1) on the resolution (H. Res. 23) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 152) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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□1656

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the word ''General'' in section 3(j)(1) is changed to ''Government.'' There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 6:45 p.m. and January 15.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and January 15 and 16 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CRENSHAW (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

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

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 41. An act to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on January 4, 2013, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 41. To temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, January 15, 2013, at 10 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE—MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

> ''I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.''

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Members of the 113th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

EARL BLUMENAUER, Third District of Oregon; JOHN LEWIS, Fifth District of Georgia; LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Fortieth District of California.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

6. A letter from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule — Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; Farmer Mac Capital Planning (RIN: 3052-AC80) received January 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations; Middlesex County, CT, et al [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0003] received January 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations; Cobb County, Georgia, and Incorporated Areas [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0003] received January 4, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations; Texas: Tarrant; [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0003] received January 4, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

10. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations; Shelby County, Alabama, and Incorporated Areas [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0003] received January 4, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

11. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Certification of Commercial and Industrial HVAC, Refrigeration and Water Heating Equipment [Docket Number: EEERE-2012-BT-CE-0048] (RIN: 1904-AC90) received January 4, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

12. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Nevada; Redesignation of Clark County to Attainment for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0792; FRL-9766-9] received January 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

13. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of the Clean Air Act, Section 112(1), Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Asbestos Management and Control; State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services [EPA-R01-OAR-2012-0430; FRL-9697-2] received January 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

14. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment for the San Francisco Bay Area Nonattainment Area for the 2006 Fine Particle Standard; California; Determination Regarding Applicability of Clean Air Act Requirements [EPA-R09-OAR-2010-0782; FRL-9766-7] received January 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

15. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment for the Yuba City-Marysville Nonattainment Area for the 2006 Fine Particle Standard; California; Determination Regarding Applicability of Clean Air Act Requirements [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0781; FRL-9768-2] received January 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

16. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Substantial Inadequacy of Implementation Plan; Call for California State Implementation Plan Revision; South Coast [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0721; FRL-9767-3] received January 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

17. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Interim Final Determination to Stay Sanctions, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0960; FRL-9766-4] received January 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

18. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Diego APCD, Northern Sierra AQMD, and Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0587; FRL-9732-9] received January 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

19. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Connect America Fund, High-Cost Universal Service Support [WC Docket No.: 10-90] [WC Docket No.: 05-337] received January 4, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

20. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notice of the United States involvement in a rescue operation conducted by France in Somalia; (H. Doc. No. 113—5); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

21. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the Distirct of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-515, ''Reckless Driving Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

22. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-486, ''Pedestrian and Bicyclist Protection Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

23. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-487, ''Driver Privacy Protection Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

24. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-489, ''Comprehensive Impaired Driving and Alcohol Testing Program Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

25. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-490, ''District Department of Transportation Accessible Vehicles Fund Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

26. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-491, ''Classroom Animal for Educational Purposes Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

27. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-513, ''Technology Sector Enhancement Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

28. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-514, ''District Department of Transportation Parking Meter Fund Establishment Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

29. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-516, ''Allen Chapel A.M.E. Senior Residential Rental Project Property Tax Exemption Clarification Temporary Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

30. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-517, ''Extension of Time to Dispose of the Eastern Avenue Property Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

31. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-518, ''Extension of Time to Dispose of the Strand Theater Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

32. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-524, ''Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

33. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-523, ''Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Time Delay Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

34. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-522, ''Clarification of Personal Property Tax Revenue Reporting Temporary Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

35. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-521, ''Income Tax Withholding Statements Electronic Submission Temporary Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

36. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-520, ''Processing Sales Tax Clarifying Temporary Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

37. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-519, ''General Obligation Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes for Fiscal Years 2013-2018 Authorization Temporary Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

38. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-534, ''Employee Transportation Amendment Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

39. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-512, ''District of Columbia Official Code Title 29 Technical and Harmonizing Amendments Act of 2012; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

40. A letter from the Acting Dirctor, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Resumption of the Population Estimates Challenge Program [Docket Number: 111215758-2650-04] (RIN: 0607-AA51) received January 9, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

41. A letter from the U.S. House of Representatives, Clerk, transmitting List of reports created by the Clerk, pursuant to Rule II, clause 2(b), of the Rules of the House; (H. Doc. No. 113—4); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

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:

[Pursuant to the order of the House on December 24, 2012, the following report was filed on January 3, 2013]

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. Report on Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Natural Resources (Rept. 112–752). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted January 14, 2013]

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 23. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 152) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–1). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. DENHAM (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. SIRES, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 219. A bill to improve and streamline disaster assistance for Hurricane Sandy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; considered and passed.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. JONES, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. YODER, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 220. A bill to amend section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, to limit the face value of coins that the Secretary of the Treasury may issue, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan):

H.R. 221. A bill to require reports on the acquisitions by certain foreign persons of companies that have received American taxpayer research and development funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 222. A bill to amend the World War I Centennial Commission Act to provide for the designation of memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARROW:

H.R. 223. A bill to prohibit States from carrying out more than one Congressional redistricting after a decennial census and apportionment, to require States to conduct such redistricting through independent commissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 224. A bill to terminate the authority of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide assistance under the Tenant Resource Network Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HARPER, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 225. A bill to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a National Pediatric Research Network, including with respect to pediatric rare diseases or conditions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 226. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for surrendering to authorities certain assault weapons; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 227. A bill to establish a gun buyback grant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 228. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to prevent the payment of cash to recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance for the return of empty bottles and cans used to contain food purchased with benefits provided under such Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MOORE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 229. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to provide for the calculation of the minimum wage based on the Federal poverty threshold for a family of 2, as determined by the Bureau of the Census; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. OLSON):

H.R. 230. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Commerce to create a job training program and an economic stability program to stabilize the workforce and promote economic growth in the Johnson Space Center region; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HANABUSA:

H.R. 231. A bill to reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HARPER:

H.R. 232. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit direct payment to pharmacies for certain compounded drugs that are prepared by the pharmacies for a specific beneficiary for use through an implanted infusion pump; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 233. A bill to amend chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for an orderly process by which the debt ceiling is increased; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 234. A bill to establish the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Investigative Commission to investigate the policies and practices engaged in by officers and directors at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac responsible for making the decisions that led to the enterprises' financial instability and the subsequent Federal conservatorship of such enterprises; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois (for himself and Mrs. CAPPS):

H.R. 235. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to States to streamline State requirements and procedures for veterans with military emergency medical training to become civilian emergency medical technicians; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 236. A bill to ensure greater accountability by licensed firearms dealers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARINO:

H.R. 237. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to reduce the number of civil service positions within the executive branch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 238. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to restrict the ability of a person whose Federal license to import, manufacture, or deal in firearms has been revoked, whose application to renew such a license has been denied, or who has received a license revocation or renewal denial notice, to transfer business inventory firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 239. A bill to require zero-based budgeting for departments and agencies of the Government; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 240. A bill to establish a program to provide reinsurance for State natural catastrophe insurance programs to help the United States better prepare for and protect its citizens against the ravages of natural catastrophes, to encourage and promote mitigation and prevention for, and recovery and rebuilding from such catastrophes, and to better assist in the financial recovery from such catastrophes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 241. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish standards of access to care for veterans seeking health care

from Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 242. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for a temporary agricultural worker program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 243. A bill to adopt the seven immediate reforms recommended by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform to reduce spending and make the Federal Government more efficient; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 244. A bill to assure that the services of a nonemergency department physician are available to hospital patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week in all non-Federal hospitals with at least 100 licensed beds; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 245. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to allow certain loans that are not fully amortizing to be used in seller carryback financing on residential mortgage loans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 246. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to collect, publish, and keep current an objective index of dollar-denominated loan interest rates of various maturities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 247. A bill to require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public, Social Security benefits, and military pay in the event that the debt limit is reached, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H. Res. 21. A resolution providing for the attendance of the House at the Inaugural Ceremonies of the President and Vice President of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H. Res. 22. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Ms. BASS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MARINO, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. PALAZZO):

H. Res. 24. A resolution expressing the deep disappointment of the House of Representatives in the enactment by the Russia Government of a law ending inter-country adoptions of Russian children by United States citizens and urging the Russia Government to reconsider the law and prioritize the processing of inter-country adoptions involving parentless Russian children who were already matched with United States families before the enactment of the law; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia:

H. Res. 25. A resolution recognizing Linemen, the profession of Linemen, and the contributions of these brave men and women to protect public safety, and expressing support of designation of April 18, 2013, as National Lineman Appreciation Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H. Res. 26. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the States should enact a temporary moratorium on residential mortgage foreclosures; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H. Res. 27. A resolution supporting the establishment and full funding of a staff exchange program between the House of Representatives and the Parliament of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada, as soon as possible; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H. Res. 28. A resolution condemning the persecution of political opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko as well as other political prisoners, among them former internal affairs minister Yuri Lutsenko; 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. DENHAM:

H.R. 219.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress) and Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 (relating to interstate compacts).

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 220.

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

Article 1 (The Legislative Branch), Section 8 (Powers of Congress), Clause 5 ''To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;. ''

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 221.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 222.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1, 12, 16, and 18

By Mr. BARROW:

H.R. 223.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 4, of the Constitution which expressly provides Congress with the power to enact laws governing the time, place, and manner of elections for Members of the House of Representatives.

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 224.

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

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 225.

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

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce, as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 226.

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

This bill is pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the United States Constitution, which states that Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 227.

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

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 228.

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

Article 1; Section 8; Necessary and Proper Clause

Congress created the SNAP program, formerly known as food stamps, to provide a social safety net for the least fortunate in our society. However, that social safety net and the tax payers who support it are being defrauded to the tune of millions of dollars a year. Therefore, it is both necessary and proper to protect the taxpayers' money through policies which aim to prevent fraud within the SNAP program.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 229.

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

The Constitutional authority to enact this legislation can be found in:

Commerce Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 3)

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18)

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 230.

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 Ms. HANABUSA:

H.R. 231.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: ''The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. HARPER:

H.R. 232.

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

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 233.

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

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution and section 4 of the 14th amendment to the Constitution

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 234.

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

Article. 1. Section 8. Clause 3

Article I. Section. 8. Clause 18

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:

H.R. 235.

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

According to clause 7 of Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution, Congress has the authority to control the expenditures of the federal government.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 236.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MARINO:

H.R. 237.

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

1) Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

2) Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 238.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 239.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I: ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 240.

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

Article I, Section 8: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 241.

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

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution reserves to Congress the power to raise and support Armies and provide and maintain a Navy, as well as make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 242.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 243.

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

Article I, Section 8: ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 244.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 245.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 246.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 247.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 23: Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 24: Mr. CAMP, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. TERRY, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. RADEL, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. LATTA, Mr. YOHO, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. AMASH, Mr. HANNA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANCE, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. CARTER, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MARINO, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BONNER, Mr. BARTON, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 25: Mr. KLINE, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. RADEL, and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 32: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 54: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 61: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JONES, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BONNER, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BARTON, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MICA, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. YODER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. TERRY, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. COLE, Mr. OLSON, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 73: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 75: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 77: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 93: Mr. NADLER, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FARR, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CHU, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. HAHN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Ms. SPEIER, and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 100: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 103: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 104: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LANCE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 106: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia and Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 107: Mr. GOWDY.

H.R. 109: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 129: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 137: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 138: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. HIMES, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MORAN, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 141: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 142: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 146: Mr. LANCE and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 148: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 149: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 163: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 168: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 178: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. GOWDY, and Mr. RADEL.

H.R. 203: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. GOWDY, and Mr. BONNER.

H.R. 207: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 217: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. LATTA, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. RADEL, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. SALMON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HARPER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina,

Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COLE, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. PEARCE, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. YODER, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BARTON, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. KLINE, Mr. BONNER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. MICA, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CASSIDY and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.J. Res. 4: Mr. COSTA, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. MATHESON.

H.J. Res. 11: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. COTTON.

H. Res. 11: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. HONDA.

H. Res. 12: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.R. 152, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

The Amendment in the nature of a substitute that I will offer to H.R. 152, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. RYAN OF WISCONSIN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 152, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE 112TH CONGRESS 2d SESSION

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on January 3, 2013, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 6655. To establish a commission to develop a national strategy and recommendations for reducing fatalities resulting from child abuse and neglect.

H.R. 4606. To authorize the issuance of right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines in Glacier National Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 443. To provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to the Maniilaq Association located in Kotzebue, Alaska.

H.R. 2076. To amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the statutory authority for the longstanding practice of the Department of Justice of providing investigatory assistance on request of State and local authorities with respect to certain serious violent crimes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4212. To prevent the introduction into commerce of unsafe drywall, to ensure the manufacturer of drywall is readily identifiable, to ensure that problematic drywall removed from homes is not reused, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6029. To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for increased penalties for foreign and economic espionage, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6328. To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to transfer unclaimed clothing recovered at airport security checkpoints to local veterans organizations and other local charitable organizations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6586. To extend the application of certain space launch liability provisions through 2014.

H.R. 6621. To correct and improve certain provisions of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act and title 35, United States Code.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOSE SAN NICOLAS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Jose Salucnamnam San Nicolas, former Commissioner of the village of Agat, Guam; he was fondly known as ''Joe Pineda'' by his family and closest friends. Born on December 15, 1945, Joe dedicated more than 40 years of his life as a public servant to the people of Guam, beginning as a youth and church leader in Agat, Guam's largest southern village. His desire to serve and his spirit of community paved the way for his election in 1970. He became one of Guam's youngest public officials at the age of 25. In 1974, after serving only one term as Assistant Commissioner, Joe was elected as the Commissioner of Agat. He passed away on December 27, 2012, at the age of 67.

As Commissioner of Agat, Joe paid particular attention to helping young people find constructive and productive activities, such as village clean-up and beautification projects. He also encouraged participation in the celebration of Guam's Liberation Day festivities, intramural sports, and involvement in church functions and religious education.

As a devout Catholic, Joe served as a ''Techa'', or traditional prayer leader, of rosaries and novenas. He volunteered his skills in leading prayers for families throughout Guam, as well as in California, Hawaii, Washington state and Germany. After his term as Commissioner of Agat, Joe continued to serve his community as a techa; he also held several different government posts, working for the Guam Legislature and Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez as a Special Assistant for community outreach.

Joe will be missed by all who knew and loved him. I extend my condolences to his family and loved ones, including his children, Dwayne and Charmaine.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF RICHARD H. GOBBLE, II

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery of City of Ripley Fire Chief Richard H. Gobble, II. Chief Gobble, a lifelong resident of the community he serves, heads an all volunteer fire department in Ripley, WV, a small town in my district.

On the morning of December 29, 2012, Ripley's Mayor received an anonymous letter detailing a heroic event that happened the week earlier, just before the Christmas holiday. The letter's anonymous author had been traveling down Route 33 when he witnessed a frightening car wreck, in which the vehicle left the road and landed in the frigid waters of a nearby creek.

The first emergency responder on the scene was a man from the fire department, who, according to the anonymous author, waded into the cold waters without hesitation to help the trapped motorist. The fireman successfully retrieved the elderly man from his almost completely submerged car and helped him to shore, reassuring him along the way that everything would be alright. By the time the fireman helped the elderly man to the creek bank, other members of the fire department, paramedics, and police had arrived on the scene to assist.

Once the elderly man was safe from the frigid waters and receiving medical treatment from paramedics, the letter's anonymous author asked a member of the fire department for the name of the fireman that risked hypothermia to save the motorist. The fireman responded, ''That's our chief!'' It was Ripley's volunteer fire chief, Richard Gobble, who had rescued the man from the frozen creek and saved his life.

Mr. Speaker, the level of devotion to community by Chief Gobble is one deserving of great respect and recognition.

I wish to thank Chief Gobble for his service to his community. The City of Ripley is fortunate to have such a heroic man leading their fire department.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD HENRY RAILEY FROM UPS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the House's attention today to recognize Richard Henry Railey who is retiring from the United Parcel Service in Opelika after 34 years of service.

Mr. Railey was born on October 18, 1957, in Ashland, Alabama, to Talma and Georgia Alberta Railey. He graduated from Wadley High School in 1976 as Class Salutatorian, lettering in both football and baseball and serving as Class President.

He attended Southern Union State Junior College receiving an A.S. Degree and serving as President of the Student Government Association. He then attended Auburn University and graduated in 1981 with a B.S. Degree in Vocational Agri-Business with a teaching certificate.

In November of 1978, Mr. Railey started working part-time at UPS while in school at Auburn. In 1979, he was promoted to part-time management and in 1984, to full-time management. In April of 1981, Richard married Debbie Renee Gilbert in Pine Mountain, Georgia, and later they had two sons, Patrick Ryan Railey and David Richard Railey. While at UPS, Richard has also volunteered at United Way, taught Junior Achievement at Opelika High School and Auburn High School and achieved many job promotions during his time there.

Mr. Speaker, we join his family and friends in celebrating Mr. Railey's retirement and wish him the very best.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY RAMACHER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Betty Ramacher, who passed away on November 20, 2012, at the age of 86. A respected elected official and community leader, Betty leaves behind a wonderful legacy and serves as an example for generations to come.

Betty was a woman of many trades. She served as a first grade teacher in Caruthers, California and operated a dress shop in the Fig Garden Shopping Center in Fresno, California. With her background as an educator and small business owner, Betty successfully ran for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in 1983. Betty served the third supervisorial district for five years.

Betty's progressive ideas along with her ability to get things done made her a well-respected political mind in California's San Joaquin Valley. Aspiring political candidates would often reach out to Betty first when running for office. Betty and her husband, Richard, were a formidable team—especially when it came to organizing campaigns and winning elections.

Along with being a political trailblazer, Betty was also a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. Betty's family was everything to her. She was a caregiver for a majority of her life—providing for her disabled son, Eric, for over 50 years, and caring for Richard after his stroke. Betty truly understood the importance of love and family.

Betty leaves behind her daughter, Mary and son-in-law, Ted Mooradian; her grandchildren, Ali Mooradian-Pesce and her husband Andres, Lauren, Jacob, and Joseph Mooradian.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Betty Ramacher. Her unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of residents in Fresno County will never be forgotten. Betty will be remembered as a woman with a kind heart and loving soul.

HONORING MR. GORDON PROUT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of Mr. Gordon Prout. Mr. Prout, a resident of Tinton Falls, New Jersey, passed away on December 17, 2012 after decades of public service as a civil engineer for the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Prior to his 34 years of public service, Mr. Prout served his country honorably in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a navigator on a B–17 Flying Fortress for nine missions over Europe before being shot down and captured. Consequently, he spent 16 months as a prisoner in Stalag Luft I in Germany. Mr. Prout successfully returned home on the Queen Mary after being liberated by the Soviets in May, 1945.

Mr. Prout is survived by his devoted wife of 67 years, Anne Bruno Prout; a daughter and son-in-law, Judith and Mickey McCabe of Monmouth Beach and Bayonne; a son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Deborah Prout of VA; four grandchildren, Allison McCabe Matto and her husband Joseph, Michael McCabe and his wife Tina, Derek Prout and his wife Jessica and Bryan Prout and his fiancée Tayler Lyttle; and five great-grandchildren, Madelyn, Luke, Grace, Aiden and Abigail.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Prout for his lifetime of public service to the state of New Jersey, and his dedicated service to our country.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT PAUL CURLING CLUB

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the unique history of the Saint Paul Curling Club on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the organization. Since 1912, the club has called Selby Avenue in Saint Paul, Minnesota its home. Today, it is the largest curling club in the United States with more than 1,200 members.

The sport of curling has a deep and rich history in Minnesota's capital city. In 1885 two clubs formed under the names of the Saint Paul Curling Club and the Nushka Curling Club. The first games were played on the frozen Mississippi River near Raspberry Island in downtown St. Paul. In 1904 the first Saint Paul Curling Club closed and the Capitol City Curling Club was formed the following year. In 1912 the Capitol City and Nushka Curling Clubs merged to form the current Saint Paul Curling Club and the new club took up residence in its current home on Selby Avenue.

During its century on Selby Avenue, the Saint Paul Curling Club has witnessed many changes—seasonal outdoor ice sheets have been upgraded to year round indoor refrigerated rinks; financial woes and declining membership in past decades have given way to booming times and a surge in membership; and a neighborhood in decline has been reborn. Throughout all these changes and more, the Saint Paul Curling Club has remained at 470 Selby Avenue. It has not only survived, it has invested in painstaking restoration as well as expansion of its historic home. Throughout its history on Selby Avenue, the Saint Paul Curling Club has served as a foundation for this neighborhood, which is once again a thriving residential community and bustling destination for dining, shopping, and socializing.

Central to the Saint Paul Curling Club is the sport of curling. Not only is it the largest curling club in the U.S., it has frequently played host to both national and international competitions. The club has hosted numerous bonspiel's, which are curling tournaments, and in 1988 they hosted the USCA Men's Championship. The club is also home to former Olympians from the 2010 Vancouver games, John Benton and Allison Pottinger. The club has helped bring recognition and respect to the City of Saint Paul.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of all the past and present members of the Saint Paul Curling Club, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing the Centennial Anniversary of this Saint Paul landmark.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER JOE E. MILLER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and lifetime achievements of West Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Joe E. Miller. Commissioner Miller's record of public service is one of devotion and self sacrifice; both during his military career and in his time as a public servant.

Joe Miller began serving his fellow citizens in 1958, when he joined the United States Marine Corps, where he attended Officer Candidates School. Over the next twenty years Miller would serve two tours in Vietnam and receive numerous awards and promotions, before finally retiring in 1978 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1997, Miller was appointed to the position of Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles by Governor Cecil Underwood and reappointed in 2009 by Governor Joe Manchin. Throughout his time as Commissioner, Miller has successfully overseen many challenging projects for the Division of Motor Vehicles. Highlights of his tenure include West Virginia's compliance with the Real ID Act of 2005, integration of the Electronic Commercial Driver's License Testing System, and development of the division's Regional Office Plan, stating, "Every citizen in the state should have reasonable access to essential DMV services."

Commissioner Miller resides in Putnam County with his wife, Darleen S. Miller. He has five children, daughters; Jenny, Debbie, Susie, Heather (deceased), and one son, Mike.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia, and indeed, the United States of America owe Commissioner Joe E. Miller a debt of gratitude for his many years of honorable service.

34TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. I am honored to rise today to recognize several individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District, who will be recognized during the 34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 19, 2013, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. Notably, David D. Chube Sr., MD will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award for 2013. Additionally, several individuals will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast including, Patricia Diana DeNeal, Elder Rozelle Hammonds, Pastor Dr. Marion J. Johnson Jr., Joseph Slay Jr., and Ann West-Walker. Finally, Ferba R. Hines was selected as the 2012 Yokefellow of the Year.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of each of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these honorees, as well as the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers, President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President Sean Jones, 1st Vice President James Piggee, Recording Secretary Linnal Ford, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, Corresponding Secretary Ferba R. Hines, and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, as well as Breakfast Chairman Clorius L. Lay, in addition to all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND VILLAGE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Highland Village as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary as an incorporated city.

Highland Village was voted into existence by approximately 100 residents on February 14, 1963, with 53 supporting votes and seven opposed. Over the subsequent 50 years the 5.5 square-mile city has transitioned from a small population and weekenders from Dallas to the lakeside community that is now home for almost 16,000 permanent residents.

Highland Village has a long history that includes its role as a hideout in the 1870s for the notorious highwayman, Sam Bass, who was drawn to the privacy of the trees and hills that are unique to much of north Texas. The same natural beauty that attracted the infamous also beckoned wealthy Dallasites seeking respite from the city. The growth continued and development by groups such as Mobil Land Development Corporation transformed the small, rural town into a suburban city in the 1970s. It eventually became a Home Rule City in 1986 as its population surpassed 5,000.

Residential expansion led to improvements in infrastructure and economic growth. Diversification of the community's revenue base through commercial development led to the city's current vibrant retail market. Roadway improvements to FM 407 and the extension of FM 2499 as a major north south route which will eventually connect DFW Airport with Denton residents has also fostered the community's prosperity. Managing its growth in a conservatively fiscal manner, Highland Village prioritized services that would enhance and preserve the quality of life for residents. As a result, current residents enjoy living in a municipality identified as the ''Safest City in Texas'', with full-time fire and emergency services, an extensive system of community trails and membership in the Denton County Transportation Authority with nearby rail connectivity to the international commerce hub of Dallas.

As Highland Village celebrates their 50th anniversary, I salute the unique community that I and my family have also known as home. It is my privilege today to represent the City of Highland Village and its residents in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE McCOLLUM

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Suzanne C. McCollum for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Ms. McCollum will retire after 28 years of distinguished service to the Nation as an Army Civilian.

Ms. McCollum began her service as a Clerk Typist, GS–1, at the Soldier Support Center-National Capital Region. In 1989, she went on to serve as a secretary and Congressional Liaison Clerk for the 6th Infantry Division (Light), Fort Wainwright, Alaska. When she returned to Washington, DC in 1992, she briefly worked for the Acquisition Management Branch, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, before accepting a position in the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison (OCLL), Congressional Inquiry Division. During this time, Ms. McCollum was assigned to ever higher levels of responsibility as her experience and reputation as a skilled action officer grew.

Ms. McCollum received a promotion in the Congressional Activities Division, where she was responsible for ensuring that Army Senior Leader written testimony was provided to the Defense Oversight committees in a timely manner. She published a key tool for the Army in responding to Congress: the Congressional Actions Responsibilities Standard Operating Procedures. Within a year, she was promoted again and asked to become the Legislative Assistant to Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston, becoming his sole advisor for all congressional affairs matters. In that role, Ms. McCollum was responsible for preparing the SMA for congressional testimony, providing analysis on Congressional interest items and legislation related to Soldier and Family issues, and keeping him informed on Members and Staff in preparation for numerous Congressional office calls, events, and trips. This was critical to ensure he was able to provide Members of Congress and their Staff with the most current information on Army Programs. Ms. McCollum most recently served as the Deputy Chief of Support Operations Division, Army Legislative Liaison.

Ms. McCollum has continued to remain passionate about Soldiers, their Families, and ensuring the quality of life for Service Members matches the quality of their service. Through her numerous contributions, she has made a real and lasting impact towards gaining Congressional trust, confidence, and advocacy for the Army.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saying thank you to Ms. Suzanne C. McCollum for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country throughout her distinguished career as an Army Civilian and we wish her, her husband, Army-Retired Colonel Douglas McCollum and her daughter, Brennan Noelle Rozmeski; stepdaughters Brooke Ashley and Brittany Kay McCollum, all the best in her well deserved retirement.

OPPOSING THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme disappointment and frustration with the agreement Congress reached to prevent automatic tax hikes and the automatic spending cuts known as sequestration. After tenuous negotiations which skirted the entire legislative process, the agreement, officially known as H.R. 8, the American Taxpayer Relief Act, is neither balanced, nor comprehensive. Instead, it adds nearly $3.97 trillion to the national debt while leaving some of the most pressing tax and spending issues facing our country unresolved. For these reasons, I opposed H.R. 8. I will continue to work hard in the hopes that my colleagues can be persuaded to avoid a repeat performance less than two months from now.

H.R. 8 fails to address our unfavorable fiscal situation, and merely delays important decisions that should have already been made. Thus, I have grave concerns that its enactment will result in other fevered negotiations by the few that will produce new ''compromises'' that are harmful to middle class families. With both the debt ceiling and sequestration still looming, I share Sen. HARKIN's concern that the passage of H.R. 8 may put pressure on achieving deficit reductions through spending programs that Americans have earned. As Sen. HARKIN stated, ''Every dollar that wealthy taxpayers do not pay under this deal, we will eventually ask Americans of modest means to forgo in Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid benefits.''

I am also absolutely appalled that the legislative process has been completely ignored throughout this process. We have known for 24 months that Bush-era tax cuts would expire at the end of 2012. We have known for 17 months that the indiscriminate, across-the-board spending cuts known as sequestration would take effect at the beginning of this year. Yet for all intents and purposes, serious negotiations did not start until after the 2012 election, leaving just under two months to craft a solution to a massive and complex set of problems. To make matters worse, essentially five elected officials—first President Obama and House Speaker BOEHNER, and later Vice President BIDEN, Senate Majority Leader REID, and Senate Minority Leader MCCONNELL—negotiated the so-called compromise, even though it affects every American across this nation. Our constituents deserve to have their interests represented by their Congressional Representatives and Senators—the officials who they have specifically chosen to represent their individual interests. This is a dreadful way to legislate, and I sincerely hope that the process is not repeated.

I am extremely frustrated that H.R. 8 is yet another unbalanced and ineffective attempt to bring our fiscal house in order. I have long maintained that the solutions to our nation's fiscal problems must be comprehensive and fair. It is the only way we can truly provide a sound economy and future for the next generation. H.R. 8 accomplishes neither of these goals. While the law will raise an estimated $620 billion over ten years compared to what the tax code would have generated if we had simply extended all of the Bush-era tax cuts, it will ultimately add $3.97 trillion to our debt over the next ten years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Achieving $620 billion in new revenue while adding nearly $4 trillion to our debt is not effective or proportional.

I also object to this law because it does nothing to reduce spending. When our budget was balanced and we had surpluses for four years under President Clinton from Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 to FY 2001, spending represented around 18.5 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP), the overall size of the economy, and tax revenues represented around 20 percent. In 2012 however, spending represented an estimated 22.9 percent of

GDP and tax revenues represented 15.7 percent. Clearly, these two extremes cannot continue if we are to balance the budget and provide for a sound economy for future generations. While we do not currently have Congressional Budget Office estimates on how this law will effect spending and revenue as a percent of GDP for FY 2013, we do know that it will increase spending by over $332 billion, pushing us even farther in the opposite direction of where we need to go. Additionally, while I do recognize the law will increase tax revenue by $620 billion over ten years—not an insubstantial amount—the effort was done with little apparent regard to the limited impact this decision will have on the trillion dollar deficits we face. I urge my colleagues to have the intestinal fortitude to make tough decisions regarding federal spending and taxes, and to take our cue from the 1990s in order to truly put this country on the right path.

Beyond spending and tax issues, I am further frustrated that the agreement is incomplete, kicking the can down the road on a number of issues. For example, it only extends Farm Bill provisions for an additional nine months. Additionally, while I am pleased that the law prevents a 27 percent cut in the Medicare reimbursement rate for doctors, the provision expires in one year. I have been working to find a permanent solution to the current formula used to determine doctor reimbursements under the Medicare program for over a decade. I am abjectly disappointed that Congress has again missed an opportunity to permanently address this important issue.

Another failure is the law's inability to permanently address the indiscriminate automatic spending cuts known as sequestration by making discrete value judgments on the cuts that need to be made. The law only delays sequestration for an additional two months, and partially pays for this delay by requiring Congress to find an additional $12 billion in unspecified discretionary cuts. Specifically, the law lowers the discretionary cap Congress previously agreed to by $4 billion in FY 2013 and by $8 billion in FY 2014. We are now three months into FY 2013 and this is the third change we have made to our spending allocations. As an appropriator, I am dismayed.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed in the Congress for agreeing to a woefully inadequate measure that fails to meaningfully address our structural deficit. As in the past, I am committed to working to ensure a balanced, thoughtful approach, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in being actively engaged to ensure such legislation is all-encompassing. It is paramount that we come together as a country to make the substantive and difficult decisions that are necessary to provide for a strong nation, a robust economy, and a bright future for the next generation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was $10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is $16,432,680,097,613.85. We've added $5,804,718,801,683.18 to our debt in 4 years. This is a $5.8 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. I have advocated for a Balanced Budget Amendment since I was sworn in for this very reason.

I will be once more forming the Balanced Budget Amendment Caucus to fight for a return to fiscal responsibility. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELAINE ROSCELLA LEHMAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Elaine Roscella Lehman. Her character exemplified the very best of what our Nation has to offer—she was thoughtful, generous, and possessed a strong work ethic.

Elaine's long-time commitment to service began early in her life when she joined the United States Navy and served in the WAVES (Women Accepted to Volunteer Emergency Service) division during World War II. Elaine began her service in Philadelphia as a medical operating room assistant, and she was later stationed at Pearl Harbor Navy Hospital. She served our country proudly during a time in history that forever changed our Nation and the world.

After the war ended, Elaine moved to Central California with her brothers. Shortly after arriving in the Golden State, she met her lifelong partner, Henry Lehman, and married him in 1947. Elaine and Henry had four children: Rick, Janet, David, and Charles. Together, they maintained and operated a successful family farm.

Elaine's service was not exclusive to times of war. She was also deeply involved in her community and became a well-known figure in Sanger, California and surrounding cities. She was president of Wilson Elementary School PTA, served as a Cub Scout Den Mother, and also volunteered as a Room Mother. In 1979, Elaine's work and dedication was recognized when she was honored as Sanger's Mother of the Year.

After an unfortunate automobile accident that resulted in the tragic death of her child Charlie, Elaine decided that she would go back to school for her nursing degree. She worked as an LVN at Valley Medical Center and at the Sanger Convalescent Hospital. Elaine genuinely cared for the well-being of others, so being a nurse suited her well. Elaine consistently went above and beyond for her patients. For years, she drove cancer patients to their treatments as a member of Angels on Wheels, using her own vehicle and gas. Elaine's legacy will undoubtedly live on through her kind and generous acts.

Elaine supported her family members whole-heartedly in times of distress and in times when they were working to fulfill their goals. When Henry was diagnosed with cancer, Elaine retired to stay with him and provide full-time care. When Rick ran for election in 1976, she was with him every step of the way until the end of his political career. Rick served with distinction in the California State Legislature and as a member of the House of Representatives from 1983 to 1994. Her daughter Janet served as a teacher, while her son David works as a structural engineer.

In addition to her family, Elaine's faith was also extremely important to her, and she taught Sunday school for over 20 years. She leaves behind her three children and two grandchildren: Carrie Beedle and Stephanie Lehman.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of an amazing woman, Elaine Roscella Lehman. Her positive attitude and overwhelming love for others will be greatly missed.

HONORING REVEREND R.T. MITCHELL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Reverend R.T. Mitchell on his 35th anniversary as Pastor of New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana. For his many years of selfless and compassionate public service, Reverend Mitchell will be honored at a celebratory banquet on Friday, January 18, 2013 at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana.

Reverend Mitchell has dedicated his life to God and to serving his congregation and the people of his community. He completed his higher education at Moody Bible Institute and the Indiana Christian Bible College, earning a degree in External Bible Study. Reverend Mitchell has also completed many other Evangelical courses, and holds a Bachelor of Theology degree.

On January 22, 1978, Reverend Mitchell became Pastor of New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church. Under his leadership, New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church has become a beacon for the community, especially for those most in need. Through their mission ministry, the church holds a monthly soup kitchen and provides support to many community organizations, including Crisis Center, Incorporated, Brother's Keeper homeless shelter, and Every Child Ministries.

Reverend Mitchell has also served as president of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Gary and Vicinity, president of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist State Convention of Indiana, and president of the Interfaith Federation Clergy Caucus. In addition, Reverend Mitchell has served on various boards and committees for community organizations throughout Gary and Northwest Indiana, including the Northwest Indiana Food Bank, the Thelma Marshall Children's Home, the Second Chance Foundation of Gary, and the Calumet Project. Reverend R.T. Mitchell also ministers to the incarcerated within the community. For his complete devotion to helping others in need of spiritual guidance, he is worthy of the highest commendation.

Reverend Mitchell's exceptional dedication to the church and to his community is exceeded only by his devotion to his wonderful family. He and his beloved wife, Irene, recently

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have two adoring daughters and six grandchildren. I am proud to represent Reverend Mitchell and extremely happy to consider him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend R.T. Mitchell on his 35th anniversary as Pastor of New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church. For his lifetime of leadership and selfless service to others, he is worthy of the highest praise.

TRIBUTE TO MARY BLAS PABLO

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Mary Blas Pablo for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Mrs. Pablo will retire after 27 years of distinguished service to the Nation as an Army Civilian.

Ms. Pablo began her service in the Pentagon in 1985 with the Department of the Army's Military Operations, Training Directorate. She relocated to Guam in 1986 as part of her husband's military reassignment where she worked for the Naval Supply Depot from 1986–1988. Mrs. Pablo returned to the Washington, DC area in 1988 where she began her 24-year tenure with the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison in the Congressional Travel Office as a Travel Staff Assistant. During this time, Ms. Pablo coordinated and arranged travel for Members and employees of Congress averaging 450 Congressional trips annually. She played a key role and contributed to several successful and flawless missions.

In 2002, Ms. Pablo became the Chief of the Army Congressional Travel Office where she served as the Army's subject matter expert on Congressional travel and was responsible for the administration and management of the Army's Congressional Travel Program. Her expertise and selfless dedication to Congress and the Army ensured support and assistance for delegations traveling domestic and abroad, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Ms. Pablo was always willing to do whatever it took to accomplish the missions vital to Congress and the Army.

Ms. Pablo has continued to remain passionate about Soldiers, their Families, and ensuring the quality of life for Service Members matches the quality of their service. Through her numerous contributions, she has made a real and lasting impact towards gaining Congressional trust, confidence, and advocacy for the Army.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saying thank you to Ms. Mary Blas Pablo for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country throughout her distinguished career as an Army Civilian and we wish her, her husband, Army-retired Ben Pablo, their children and grandchildren, Lisa, Todd, Brian, Talan, Landon and Addisen all the best in her well deserved retirement.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KARLY WILLIAMS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Karly Williams a happy birthday.

Karly was born on January 14, 1999 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She is the daughter of Robert and Tracie Williams.

Karly attends Hunter Middle School—Home of the Hawks—in Ooltewah, Tennessee. At Hunter, Karly is a member of the WHMS News crew and won an award for her service.

During the 2012 football season, Karly was a manager for the football team and now serves as a manager for the wrestling team.

Karly is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Beehive class president of the Harrison Bay ward. One day, Karly hopes to attend Brigham Young University.

For now, Karly likes fashion, fishing, dance and drawing. She also likes Chik-fil-A, Red Lobster, sunny weather, country music and beaches.

Karly is a girl who loves pearls—and her daddy's big, red truck. Wherever daddy is, Karly wants to be.

Karly's dog, Izzie, pals around with Aggie. Aggie, also known as Little Boy, is Mimi's brown chihuahua. Aggie and Izzie, an Australian cattle dog, live with Karly on Birchwood Pike in Harrison, Tennessee.

HONORING HUELL HOWSER

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, last week, California lost one of its most beloved individuals, Huell Howser. Huell was known to so many Californians as the friendly host of California's Gold, the long running public television program from which he retired late last year.

Huell's southern accent made it clear that he wasn't a native Californian. He was born in Tennessee but moved to Los Angeles in 1981 to become a reporter for KCBS. He fell in love with his new home and created his own television show dedicated to life in California. The premise was simple. He, a cameraman, and a hand-held microphone traveled across the state, visiting everything from national parks to little known mom-and-pop shops, in search of California stories. He found them.

His folksy charm was disarming and his impromptu interviews were lighthearted and friendly. He talked to nearly everyone he met and found the most incredible stories ranging from tragic and touching to obscure and wonderful. But regardless of where he was visiting, his genuine enthusiasm stole the show. He was known for his "gee-wiz" demeanor and being completely fascinated with everything he stumbled upon, often exclaiming "That's amazing!" The LA Times once called him "magnificently unslick." Many Californians have mastered their own impression of him, with love of course.

California's Gold ran on public television for 19 years. It became many Californians' "comfort television." Huell Howser was always a pleasure to watch. Each episode would show you everything you ever wanted to know about a place, and perhaps a little more.

He was a personal friend and I will always have fond memories of our Thanksgivings together at my brother Jim's home in San Pedro. I will never forget listening to Huell and my mother Ramona share stories of Nashville where she attended high school.

Since his passing, there has been an outpouring of tributes from his fans across the state who remember him for his optimism and sincerity. He is truly irreplaceable.

HONORING BRAD BELK'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brad Belk on his 25 years of service to the Joplin Museum Complex.

Brad has made it his mission to promote the local history of Joplin through numerous positions including author, educator, archivist, historian, exhibit designer, conservator, tour guide, historian film script writer, director, and film producer.

Brad has collaborated with the design and planning of several off-site permanent exhibits for the Joplin Museum Complex. He has also renovated many of the exhibit areas including the museum's mineral wing and assisted with the historical restoration of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. Throughout the years Brad has given thousands of historical tours, lectures and presentations. He has also overseen the addition of ten major collections to the museum containing over 100,000 artifacts.

In addition, Brad has made large contributions to the historical literature of the region writing five books and co-authoring two others. He also has penned numerous articles on the region and directed or appeared in thirteen historical videos—several of which have received awards. He recently wrote and directed a 30-minute video covering the history of Missouri Southern State University, MSSU.

Alongside his work at the museum, Brad currently serves on the MSSU Alumni board of directors and is currently completing the 75th anniversary book for Missouri Southern.

Over the years, Brad has served on the Missouri History Speakers' Bureau, as Co-Chairman of the City of Joplin's 125th Celebration, and as a board member of the Route 66 Association of Missouri. He was also a member of the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation, and the Joplin Elk's Elkland Advisory Committee.

In 2006, Brad was honored with the Missouri Governor's Missouri Humanities Award.

Mr. Speaker, Brad's contributions to the city of Joplin and the state of Missouri are far-reaching, and it is an honor to recognize him.

IN HONOR OF JAMES J. SWEENEY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor James J. Sweeney of Havertown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sweeney entered the United States Navy after graduating from high school in 1943, and served aboard the USS Hancock. The Hancock took part in some of World War II's most pivotal battles, including the invasions of the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Mr. Sweeney was honored for his heroic service and awarded the Philippines Liberation Medal, two Battles Stars and a Presidential Unit Commendation.

It was during his time in the Navy, that Mr. Sweeney befriended his shipmate, John Finn. Lieutenant Finn received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions at Pearl Harbor. During the Japanese surprise attack, Lieutenant Finn manned his machine gun and fought off the Japanese Zeroes for two and half hours even as he took an onslaught of bullets and shrapnel. And for the past nine years, James Sweeney has tirelessly worked to honor Lieutenant John Finn, who passed away in 2009. On February 15th, 2011, those efforts proved successful as the Navy announced that a new guided missile destroyer will be named the USS John Finn. For these efforts Mr. Sweeney is being honored by American Legion Post 667 in Havertown. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I congratulate Mr. Sweeney on his efforts to ensure that Lieutenant Finn's name and legacy lives on, and for his service during World War II, reflecting great credit upon himself and the United States Navy.

IN MEMORY OF HELEN HANSFORD

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my dearest friends and a jewel of southern Kentucky, the late Helen Hansford.

Helen was a staunch Republican since the day she was old enough to officially register, at the age of 21. From then on, she stood firm on conservative principles with her sweet southern charm. Helen became a member of the Republican Women's Club in 1966, served as an executive committee member of Kentucky's Republican Party for more than 20 years, and attended every Republican National Convention since 1984, until news of a malignant brain tumor interrupted her plans in 2011.

Helen's husband, the late Sherman Hansford, served as Pulaski County Sheriff for many years. During his service, Helen was right by Sherman's side, serving as a deputy sheriff and office clerk. She had a passion for public service and believed in being a part of transforming her hometown and helping others succeed. In fact, Helen's heartbeat raced for the children in Pulaski County Schools. As the Executive Assistant to the Pulaski County Schools Superintendent and a member of the Pulaski County Board of Education, Helen never hesitated to take on the reins of responsibility when action was needed. Yet, she was always a true lady, winning over hearts with her generous spirit and words of encouragement.

When Helen believed in a cause, she invested herself into its success with every ounce of energy she had to offer. She devoted more than 50 years to numerous boards and agencies, including the Order of the Eastern Star, Kentucky Public Retirees, along with local, state and national Republican politics. In honor of her tireless dedication, Helen was recently inducted into the Pulaski County Lincoln Club Hall of Fame and the Republican 5th District Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an irreplaceable friend to southern Kentucky, the late Helen Hansford.

IN HONOR OF CHARLOTTE ELLSWORTH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a remarkable mother, wife, friend, and public servant. Charlotte Ellsworth passed away just before Christmas. I had the great fortune of meeting her through her work at the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, where I often encountered her during meetings or events related to the reuse of Fort Ord. At FORA, Charlotte was the ever present cheerful voice on the phone or steady presence at sometimes heated public meetings. I know that all of us who have worked with FORA, either as community leaders, members of the public, or her colleagues, will miss her very much.

Charlotte was born in Carmel, California, on January 5, 1953. Her family lived in Seaside, California, at the time, but moved to nearby Prunedale in 1954. Her father was a painter and foreman of a glass shop on Fort Ord and was eventually promoted as Engineer of the Presidio of Monterey. She attended Echo Valley Elementary School in Prunedale and graduated from Watsonville High School in the class of 1970.

Charlotte was a lifelong member of the Las Lomas Full Gospel Church in Watsonville, where she married Kenneth Ellsworth, a soldier at Fort Ord, in 1974. In 1975, Charlotte and Ken moved to Castroville, where she lived until her passing. Charlotte and Ken welcomed a son, Kenneth Jr., in 1976. Kenneth Jr. and his wife, Edith, both serve as police officers in Salinas, California. They recently welcomed a baby girl, Alyssa, who was the light of Charlotte's life and who Ken Sr. laughingly says ''will not be a police officer.''

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in extending our condolences to Charlotte Ellsworth's family, friends, and colleagues. The loss of such a remarkable person is particularly painful. I hope that all of those affected by her early passing can take comfort in the remarkable difference that she made in the lives of all those that she touched.

CONGRATULATING THE 2012 BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an exceptional group of young men who, for the second year in a row, have distinguished themselves as the undisputed national champions of college football. On January 7, 2013, the University of Alabama Crimson Tide captured the BCS National Championship with a decisive 42 to 14 victory over the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

By clinching their third BCS national championship in four years, the Crimson Tide has cemented their place in college football history and prompted some to ask if this remarkable team might be unequalled in the storied annals of the game.

As Kevin Scarbinsky of the Birmingham News observed in a January 8 op-ed,

> All the while Notre Dame was reliving history, Alabama was making it. All over the golden domes of the Fighting Irish. Only one team played like a champion Monday in the BCS National Championship Game. Only one team shook down the thunder with old-school football and woke up the echoes of the greatest dynasties in the sport. Yea Alabama. The Crimson Tide became the third program in the poll era of college football history to win a third national championship in four years by taking apart the first program to do it. The Notre Dame champions of 1946, 1947 and 1949 would appreciate the Alabama champions of 2009, 2011 and 2012 because Alabama's third title came at Notre Dame's expense, right in Notre Dame's face.
>
> Given that Alabama plays in a Southeastern Conference that's won seven straight BCS titles, in a state with a rival in Auburn that interrupted this parade with its own championship, we're witnessing the greatest run in college football history. Greater than Notre Dame in the 1940s, Alabama in the 1970s or Nebraska in the 1990s.
>
> To win it again Monday was special. To do it against Notre Dame, Alabama's historical nemesis, was memorable. To leave no doubt on the scoreboard leaves no doubt in the debate. This was history. This is a dynasty. The best we've ever seen. The best there's ever been.

Congratulations to head coach Nick Saban, and coaches Burton Burns, Mike Groh, Doug Nussmeier, Jeff Stoutland, Jeremy Pruitt, Kirby Smart, Lance Thompson, Bobby Williams, Chris Rumph, Scott Cochran, and Joe Pannunzio. And, above all, congratulations to the 2012 BCS Champion Crimson Tide football team: Edward Aldag, Ryan Anderson, Jonathan Atchison, Dakota Ball, Parker Barrineau, Kenny Bell, Deion Belue, Jerrod Bierbower, Chris Black, Chris Bonds, Hunter Bush, Brent Calloway, Caleb Castille, Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, Landon Collins, Levi Cook, Amari Cooper, Trey DePriest, Denzel Devall, Quinton Dial, Josh Dickerson, Xzavier Dickson, Dillon Drake, Kenyan Drake, Dustin Ellison, Phillip Ely, Malcolm Faciane, LaMichael Fanning, D.J. Fluker, Cade Foster, Jalston Fowler, Kurt Freitag, John Fulton, Brandon Greene, Adam Griffith, Caleb Gulledge, Rowdy Harrell, Dee Hart, Tyler Hayes, Ben Howell, Adrian Hubbard, Brandon Ivory, Kelly Johnson, Nico

Johnson, Aaron Joiner, Barrett Jones, Christion Jones, Cyrus Jones, Harrison Jones, Ryan Kelly, Korren Kirven, Arie Kouandjio, Cyrus Kouandjio, Eddie Lacy, Darren Lake, Dillon Lee, Robert Lester, Chad Lindsay, Wilson Love, Isaac Luatua, Josh Magee, Cody Mandell, Nathan McAlister, AJ McCarron, Corey McCarron, Dee Milliner, William Ming, Alec Morris, Taylor Morton, C.J. Mosley, Michael Newsome, Harold Nicholson, Kevin Norwood, Michael Nysewander, Anthony Orr, Tyler Owens, Jeoffrey Pagan, Tana Patrick, Nick Perry, D. J. Pettway, Parker Philpot, Marcus Polk, Reggie Ragland, Russell Raines, Ty Reed, Trey Roberts, Jeremy Shelley, Austin Shepherd, Alex Shine, Marvin Shinn, Blake Sims, Geno Smith, Damion Square, Anthony Steen, Ed Stinson, Vinnie Sunseri, Bradley Sylve, Alphonse Taylor, MK Taylor, Carson Tinker, Dalvin Tomlinson, Brian Vogler, Paul Waldrop, Chance Warmack, Jabriel Washington, Ranzell Watkins, DeAndrew White, Wilson Whorton, Eddie Williams, Jarrick Williams, Jesse Williams, Kellen Williams, Michael Williams, Nick Williams, Danny Woodson Jr, and T.J. Yeldon.

And on behalf of Bama fans around the world, Roll Tide!

A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and join the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus to address the pervasive culture of violence that exists in America today.

The community in Newtown, Connecticut—along with the rest of the country—is still reeling from the inconceivable tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary on December 14, 2012; our hearts still ache with sadness and disbelief for the families and loved ones of the children and women who lost their lives in this senseless act of violence.

As the Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and a senior Member of the Judiciary Committee, I have listened to the tragic testimony of individuals who have survived or lost loved ones as a result of gun violence.

In the words of President Obama after the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting, ''We're going to have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this, regardless of the politics.''

While it is certainly true that violent crime and homicide rates in this country have been declining in recent years, they are still far above those in other industrialized nations.

Moreover, in America, there exists a pernicious culture of violence; a subculture that with today's technologically advanced weaponry is far more dangerous to public safety than ever before. At no point in our nation's history has a single human been more capable of inflicting massive death and misery, and our society is producing more individuals who wish to employ such means to carry out their ill intentions.

Far too often, the tool of choice for would-be killers is a firearm. Moreover, military-style assault weapons with high-capacity magazines are not just in the hands of our men and women in the armed services; they on our streets. Many of them are in the wrong hands, and end up being the highly efficient tools of criminals and mass murderers.

Today marks a month since the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting. In that time, at least 836 more people in America have died from gun violence and accidental shootings.

This isn't a fluke; every day, on average, 33 Americans are murdered with guns, amounting to more than 12,000 people a year. In addressing this issue, I recognize and respect other cultures that exist in America; law-abiding citizens who are responsible in their ownership of firearms. Many of these citizens are reasonable with respect to the lethal capacity of their firearms, opting not to obtain assault weapons or to equip assault weapons with 30, 50, 75, or 100-round magazines.

Our reaction to, God forbid, the next time a madman enters a crowded movie theatre with the intent to kill, cannot simply be to wish that there was an armed good Samaritan in the audience who had the courage, opportunity and ability to stop a psychopathic shooter wielding a semi-automatic weapon equipped with a high-capacity magazine.

I commend the President for convening a Gun Violence Task Force, and Vice President Biden for his outstanding leadership.

As the President develops policy recommendations, as Members of Congress, we need to act as well.

H.R. 65: ''THE CHILD GUN SAFETY AND GUN ACCESS PREVENTION ACT OF 2013''

We have all been shaken by tragic events in which children are the victims of gun violence or accidents. Whether these events occurred in Newtown, CT, Aurora, CO, or on the streets of Chicago, IL, we need to effectively address the safety of our children immediately. Urban, suburban, or rural, guns have impacted children across the demographic spectrum.

While the nation's attention has often been drawn toward some of the more high-profile events, the broader statistics are disturbing, demonstrating a real need to address how we protect our nation's children from gun violence.

Every 30 minutes, a child or teenager in America dies or is injured by a gun. Every 3 hours and 15 minutes, a child or teenager loses their life to a firearm. In 2010, 82 children under 5 years of age lost their lives due to guns. To put that in perspective, 58 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty that year.

As the 113th Congress debates various proposals for gun legislation in light of recent tragedies, we can act now to pass H.R. 65, a bill with common sense standards that is focused on protecting our nation's children from gun violence and accidents.

H.R. 65 will raise the handgun eligibility age from 18 to 21, and will prohibit persons under the age of 21 from possessing semiautomatic assault weapons or large capacity magazines.

Moreover, H.R. 65 increases penalties on individuals who knowingly transfer a handgun, ammunition, semiautomatic assault weapon, or large capacity ammunition feeding device to a person under age 21.

In addition, H.R. 65 will also prohibit importers, manufacturers, and dealers from transferring firearms without providing the purchaser with a gun storage or safety device.

Finally, H.R. 65 authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to provide grants to enable local law enforcement agencies to develop and sponsor gun safety classes for parents and children.

These provisions, and others, can go a long way toward making our homes, schools, and streets safer for children across this country. We may not be able to prevent every gun-related tragedy from occurring in the future, but we have a responsibility to implement reasonable standards that will prevent the loss of innocent lives.

As we call for legislation to address gun related violence, it is also important to address another growing epidemic . . . the epidemic of bullying. We live in a society where children are exposed to so many different influences. Unfortunately, there are hundreds of children who have to face bullies in the classroom and in cyberspace. As we discuss the culture of violence, we must always remember the impact that this culture has on our nation's children.

BULLYING PREVENTION

Today Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Those who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems. It used to be that Bullying just happened primarily among over youth but as we are seeing today even the elderly and adults are being bullied. This must stop.

I introduced in the 112th Congress H.R. 83 ''Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act,'' which calls for the reauthorization of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants at $40 million for each FY 2013–2017, which amounts to $200 million in funding.

In addition, my bill would add purpose area to provide for grant funding to States for programs that address bullying, cyberbullying prevention, and gang prevention and intervention in addition to expressing a Sense of Congress on the importance of best practices.

The JABG program authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to states and units of local government to strengthen their juvenile justice systems and foster accountability within their juvenile populations. The program focuses resources on holding juveniles accountable for their actions and building up the juvenile justice system in the states.

It also essentially signifies the high-water mark of the federal government's movement away from an emphasis on rehabilitating juveniles and toward the idea that juveniles need to be punished for their crimes; indeed, the only core mandate of the JABG program is that states must begin to implement a system of graduated sanctions in order to be eligible for funding.

Many of the deadly cases of bullying arise when children are teased and tormented simply for being different. There has been a recent upswing of suicides amongst lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) teens as a result of bullying.

Almost 85 percent of LGBT teenagers are harassed in high school because of their sexual orientation, with 61 percent of gay youth reporting that they felt unsafe in school and 30% staying home to avoid bullying.

By law, we require our children to go to school. Therefore, we have a duty to maintain a safe and healthy environment for children, one in which they should not be afraid. It is important that our children know that bullying will not be taken lightly, and that there will be consequences for such actions.

Thirty percent (30%) of U.S. students in grades six through ten are involved in moderate or frequent bullying—as bullies, as victims, or as both—according to the results of the first national survey on this subject. I held a Local-Federal Hearing on Bullying in Houston, Texas and hearings on Bullying in Washington, DC. I heard testimony from law enforcement officials about some of the difficulties they faced when combating bullying. Over 40 advocates and victims from across the country also testified.

Last year, I invited the Director of the movie Bully, Lee Hirch and other experts to screen the movie Bully and for a Briefing on the issue of Bullying. When the MPAA threaten to rate the movie with an R rating, I requested that they reconsider, the movie literally follows to lives of several children who are bullied in schools and needed to be seen by children. I was pleased with the MPAA relented and gave the movie a PG–13 rating.

I have read the accounts of bullying victims and indeed the language from those accounts is often graphic and deeply moving. This is the type of language that our children hear and the behavior that they have witness in their classrooms and on their playgrounds.

Bullying has become a crucial issue of epidemic proportions affecting millions of children and countless schools across our country. Studies show that 1 out of 4 children have been physically bullied, and the percentages grow exponentially when one considers the number of children affected emotionally and psychologically, and those who have bullied other children. Lately, instances of bullying have taken a deadly turn all over the country. We must utilize all the resources we have available to us to address this dangerous trend. My bill is intended to address this epidemic.

This Congress we must focus on finding ways to address this culture of violence. I implore each of you to address gun safety, to limit access to certain types of guns, to support legislation that addresses bullying amongst our nation's children.

This Congress we have the opportunity to take steps to address mental health, reasonable limitations on certain fire arms, and the growing epidemic of bullying. We must act and we must act now.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands in recess until 11:30 a.m. on Monday, January 21, 2013.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 29 public bills, H.R. 219–247; and 7 resolutions, H. Res. 21–22, 24–28 were introduced. **Pages H84–86**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H86–87**

Report Filed: A report was filed on January 3, 2013 as follows:

Report on Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Natural Resources (H. Rept. 112–752).

A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 23, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 152) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–1). **Page H84**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Emerson to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H63**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 300 yeas to 95 nays with 2 answering ''present'', Roll No. 9. **Pages H73–74**

Committee Leave of Absence: Read a letter from Representative Israel wherein he notified the House that he is taking a leave of absence from the Committee on Appropriations in the 113th Congress, effective today. **Page H64**

Committee Leave of Absence: Read a letter from Representative Ruppersberger wherein he notified the House that he is taking a leave of absence from the Committee on Appropriations for the remainder of the 113th Congress. **Page H64**

Committee Leave of Absence: Read a letter from Representative Quigley wherein he notified the House that he is taking a leave of absence from the Committee on the Judiciary, effective today. **Page H64**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Quigley, wherein he resigned from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, effective today. **Pages H64–65**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Owens, wherein he resigned from both the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Agriculture, effective today. **Page H65**

Committee Leave of Absence: Read a letter from Representative Gutierrez wherein he notified the House that he is taking a leave of absence from the Committee on Financial Services, effective today. **Page H65**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Hahn, wherein she resigned from the Committee on Homeland Security, effective today. **Page H65**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Heck (WA), wherein he resigned from the Committee on the Budget, effective today. **Page H65**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:12 p.m. and reconvened at 5 p.m. **Page H65**

Suspension: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013: H.R. 219, to improve and streamline disaster assistance for Hurricane Sandy, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 403 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 8. **Pages H65–73**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H72**

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed to H. Res. 21, to provide for the attendance of the House at the Inaugural Ceremonies of the President and Vice President of the United States. **Page H73**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, January 15th; when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, January 16th; when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. on Friday, January 18th; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 21st. **Page H73**

Administration of the Oath of Office: Representatives-elect Blumenauer, Lewis, and Roybal-Allard presented themselves in the well of the House and were administered the oath of office by the Speaker. **Page H82**

Whole Number of the House: Under clause 5(d) of Rule 20, the Chair announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from California, Ms. Roybal-Allard, the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Lewis, and the gentleman from Oregon, Mr. Blumenauer, the whole number of the House is 433. **Page H74**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Polis motion to adjourn by a recorded vote of 4 ayes to 397 noes, Roll No. 10. **Pages H74–75**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 22, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H75**

Joint Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies—Appointment: Pursuant to S. Con. Res. 2, 113th Congress, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Cermonies: Representative Boehner, Cantor, and Pelosi. **Page H82**

Recess: The House recessed at 8:24 p.m. and reconvened at 9:28 p.m. **Page H82**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H64.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H73, H74 and H74–75. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 152, the "Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013." The Committee granted, by voice vote, a structured rule for H.R. 152. The rule provides one hour of general 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 bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and 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 the amendment printed in part B of the report to the amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in part B. The rule provides that after the disposition of the amendment printed in part B, the Chair shall put the question on the amendment in the nature of a substitute in part A.

The rule provides that if the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A is not adopted, the Committee of the Whole shall rise and report that it has come to no resolution on the bill. If the amendment in the nature of a substitute is adopted, the amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment.

The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part C of the report. The rule provides that at the conclusion of consideration of the amendments printed in part C, the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill, to the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A, or to amendment number 1 printed in part C. The rule provides that each such amendment printed in part B and part C of the report 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 (except as specified in the report), and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Finally, the rule directs the Clerk to, in the engrossment of H.R. 152, add the text of H.R. 219 as passed by the House as a new matter at the end of H.R. 152; conform the title of H.R. 152 to reflect the addition of the text of H.R. 219, as passed by the House, to the engrossment; assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

Testimony was heard from Chairman Rogers (KY), and Representatives Lowey, Frelinghuysen, Smith (NJ), Pascrell, Langevin, McClintock, Bishop (UT), Cassidy, Blumenauer, Fleming, Posey, Brooks (AL), Gardner, Gosar, Huelskamp, and Mulvaney.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee organizational meeting for the 113th Congress. The Committee rules were approved.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee, organizational meeting for the 113th Congress, 11:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee, organizational meeting for the 113th Congress, 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11:30 a.m., Monday, January 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Joint Session for the Inauguration of the President and Vice President of the United States.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, January 15

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Reading of the Constitution of the United States by Members of the House of Representatives. Consideration of H.R. 152—Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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