

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING J. GUADALUPE  
VALTIERRA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to honor J. Guadalupe Valtierra and to wish him well upon his retirement from his position as Chancellor at Ivy Tech Community College. Chancellor Valtierra's many years of service and expertise in the field of education have been a remarkable asset to the community of Northwest Indiana, where he has been able to positively impact the lives of countless students and educators. In honor of his retirement, a reception will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana.

J. Guadalupe Valtierra's professional career began with his passion for education and learning. Following his graduation from Purdue University, Lupe went on to earn a law degree, followed by a master's degree in higher education and student affairs, both from Indiana University. Chancellor Valtierra's career with Ivy Tech Community College spans seventeen years. Prior to becoming chancellor, he served as Director of Student Services. In 2002, Mr. Valtierra became chancellor of the college's Northwest region, which includes the campuses located in Gary, East Chicago, Valparaiso, and Michigan City. In this position, Chancellor Valtierra has been a true leader, supervising and directing the administrative and fiscal operations for the Northwest Region. Under his direction, enrollment in Ivy Tech's Northwest Region grew by more than seventy percent, and today there are more than 16,000 students enrolled in classes. In 2006, the new Valparaiso Ivy Tech campus opened. Chancellor Valtierra oversaw the completion of this project, which included a tremendously successful capital campaign that raised \$3.9 million. During his tenure, the Gerald I. Lamkin Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, which manages the Society of Innovators and the Dare to Dream Initiative, was also launched. These programs have been a tremendous benefit to the community of Northwest Indiana, fostering a culture of innovation, which is so crucial in today's ever-changing economy.

Additionally, Lupe has selflessly given of his time through his involvement in various organizations and civic activities, including H.O.P.E.—Hispanic Organization Promoting Excellence, the Lake County Good Government Initiative, the Quality of Life Council, Catholic Charities, the Gary Educational Development Foundation Board, the Salvation Army, and the Northwest Indiana Local Government Academy Advisory Board, among many others. For his service and dedication to serving his community, Lupe is to be commended.

Mr. Valtierra's commitment to education and to the community of Northwest Indiana is ex-

ceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. He and his wonderful wife, Teresa, have one daughter, Adriana.

Today, there are countless citizens throughout Northwest Indiana and beyond whose lives are fuller because of Chancellor Valtierra's life of dedicated public service. They have been educated when otherwise they might not have been. They have fuller careers and loves. I am grateful for Lupe's selflessness, as well as for his friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Chancellor J. Guadalupe Valtierra for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication to Ivy Tech and to the field of education. For his uncompromising devotion to his students and his community, Chancellor Valtierra is worthy of the highest praise, and I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMSOIL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SNOWMOBILE DERBY IN EAGLE RIVER, WISCONSIN

**HON. SEAN P. DUFFY**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Amsoil World Championship Snowmobile Derby on Sunday, January 20, 2013, in Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Fifty years ago, the sport of snowmobiling had just begun. Today, the sport has a national economic impact of \$24 billion with an additional international economic impact of \$13 billion. Over 100,000 full-time jobs in North America are generated by the snowmobile industry. These American jobs include jobs in manufacturing, sales, and tourism-related services.

I am proud to have a snowmobile manufacturer with facilities located in Wisconsin's Seventh Congressional District. Polaris Industries, Inc. manufactures and distributes quality snowmobiles, among other high-performance motorized products. This employee owned company is just one example of the positive impacts the snowmobile industry has on our economy.

The history of snowmobiling started in Vilas County, 40 years before the very first snowmobile race took place. In fact, Carl Eliason of Sawyer, Wisconsin, invented the first snowmobile, which was a snow toboggan, with skis and a track to drive the machine over the snow. By 1964, John and Betty Alward in Eagle River, along with Walter Goldsworthy of nearby Three Lakes, WI, gave the winter economy a boost with the sport of snowmobile racing. The initial news release called this the "World's First Snowmobile Derby," which at the time, was an entirely new concept in win-

ter sports celebrations. Between 2,000 and 3,000 people attended that event in 1964. Today, the World Championship attracts over 30,000.

I am thankful for those who envisioned the snowmobile derby and for those who have made this event an incredible success. Snowmobiling is an important part of Wisconsin's heritage and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending my congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the Amsoil World Championship Snowmobile Derby in Eagle River, WI.

IN HONOR OF SANDRA FABER

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandra Faber, a University of California, Santa Cruz Professor, who has been selected by the White House to receive the National Medal of Science for her inspiring contributions to the fields of astronomy and astrophysics. Sandra is not only an exceptional and passionate educator; she is an innovative and dedicated scientist.

Sandra is an observational astronomer who specializes in research on cosmology and galaxy formation. She has co-authored nearly 250 scientific papers, which have been cited over 37,000 times. Sandra is currently leading the CANDELS project, the largest project in the history of the Hubble Space Telescope. Her team is making revolutionary discoveries on cosmic evolution and is working to give scientists a view of galaxy formation nearly back to the Big Bang.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society, Sandra has received many additional awards and honors for her scientific achievements. In 2009, she received the Franklin Institute's Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science. In the past year, she was recognized with two lifetime achievement awards, the Bruce Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and the Russell Prize of the American Astronomical Society.

Sandra is thrilled to be one of 12 recipients of the National Medal of Science and wants to express her gratitude to the University of Santa Cruz and University of California Observatories. She recognizes that without the collaboration of her fellow scientists and the world class equipment provided by these institutions, her amazing contributions would not have been possible.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to honor Sandra Faber for her outstanding commitment and dedication to higher education and the scientific community.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE  
ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY CHAM-  
BER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorees of the 2013 Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet Dinner. The Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business community of the greater Lewiston/Auburn area, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the region and the State.

Each year, the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include Barbara Dagley of Carbonite Inc., recipient of Business Leadership Award for a Larger Company; Kurk Lalemand of Next Level Business Coaching and John Stass of Katandin Furniture, recipients of the Business Leadership Awards for Smaller Companies; Larry Raymond of Issacson and Raymond, recipient of the Ray Geiger Award; Rita Dube, Julia Sleeper and Kim Pelletier, recipients of the Community Service Leadership Awards; Rick Jones of Jones Associates, recipient of the Poland Business Award; Nick Benoit of Benoit's Bakery and Wine Cellar, recipient of the Lisbon Business Award; Nancy Ricker of Ricker Hill Orchards, recipient of the Turner Business Award; Russ Barlow, Principal of the Franklin Alternative School in Auburn is the recipient of the Education Award; Sherry Spencer of Proctor and Gamble—Tambrands, recipient of the "Cool Chamber Award;" Dick Roy of Mechanics Savings Bank, recipient of the Ken Addition Small Business Advocate Award; Kim Jacques of Revelation Massage, recipient of the 2013 New Member of the Year Award; and Susan Hall of The Vault and Kevin Dean and Emil Clavet of Electricity Maine, recipients of the President's Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, January 4, 2013, I was unable to be present for a recorded vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 7 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 41).

IN RECOGNITION OF E. JOHN  
MOROCCO

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Public Safety Commissioner E. John Morocco for 46 years of service to the City of North Adams, Massachusetts. Commissioner Morocco, in a career spanning over four decades, has been an instrumental member of the leadership within the city's and throughout Berkshire County's law enforcement duties. It is the dedication Commissioner Morocco has had to his job and to the people that has made North Adams, Massachusetts a safer place to live and to call "home."

Throughout his tenure with the North Adams Police Department, Commissioner Morocco has held various roles over the years. Notable titles include being appointed Detective in 1986, Lieutenant in 1994 and his retiring title of Commissioner in 1996. Commissioner Morocco also served as one of the founding members of the Berkshire County Drug Task Force and is also a past President of the New England Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Commissioner Morocco on his achievements and thanking him for his contribution and dedication to the citizens and City of North Adams, Massachusetts.

BLACK JANUARY

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to join with the people of Azerbaijan to commemorate the tragic events of "Black January."

On January 19, 1990, approximately 26,000 Soviet troops stormed Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku in tanks and armored vehicles. That night, the Soviet military opened indiscriminate fire on peaceful demonstrators, including women and children. As a result of these merciless acts 131 people were killed, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested, and 5 went missing.

The Human Rights Watch report "Black January in Azerbaijan" states that "among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances, and even hospitals." The report concludes that the violence used by the Soviet Army constituted an exercise in collective punishment and that the punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers may have been intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union.

Far from crushing the spirit of Azeris, the atrocities of Black January instead consolidated the rising independence movements in the country and united the Azerbaijani nation in its quest for freedom. After 23 years Azerbaijan represents a flourishing country where democratic aspirations of Azerbaijani people

have been materialized as they continue diplomatic relations with the United States.

It is my honor to thank the Azerbaijani people for their friendship and to offer my thoughts and prayers to the families of those who gave their lives for the independence of Azerbaijan. I encourage my colleagues to visit the very moving memorial to Black January in Baku that honors the memories of those killed in these attacks by the Soviet military and to join with me today in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

TRIBUTE TO UMATILLA COUNTY  
SHERIFF JOHN TRUMBO

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Umatilla County Sheriff John Trumbo. Sheriff Trumbo retired on January 1, 2013 after a career in law enforcement that dates back to 1973. Since he moved to Pendleton, Oregon in 1977, Sheriff Trumbo has dedicated over thirty-five years of service to the citizens of Umatilla County.

Born and raised in Oregon's Willamette Valley, John learned how to work hard in the family business and later as a crane "high flyer". His love for police service began in 1972 when he joined the Benton County Sheriff's office "Ride Along" program. A year later John became a reserve officer, serving Benton County, Oregon for nearly four years. During this time he joined his colleagues in Benton County who traveled to Pendleton, Oregon and lent a hand with security for the world famous Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Pageantry Show. Because of these connections and his work, John was offered a job by the Umatilla County Sheriff.

John took the Sheriff up on this invitation and in 1977 moved to Pendleton, an eastern Oregon wheat ranch and rodeo community which he and his wife Carol never left. His wife Carol, an accomplished school teacher in her own right, was there helping John raise their two sons Nick and Michael who now have blessed them with two loving grandchildren, Presley and Cade. Recently Cade was asked to write about a hero in school and chose his "good grandpa the Sheriff" who would be there "just in case anyone is a criminal."

For nearly twenty years John served in various roles in the Umatilla County Sheriff's office, officer in the jail, having the first K-9 unit, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and Under-Sheriff. In 1997, John was sworn in and began his first of sixteen years of service as Umatilla County Sheriff. Always known for his honest and straightforward approach, Sheriff Trumbo was requested and volunteered to participate in many local and state boards, task forces, and councils, including the Governor's Methamphetamine Task Force and the advisory board for Blue Mountain Community College's criminal justice program. He also served as President of the Oregon State Sheriffs Association.

Sheriff Trumbo also implemented programs to aid the citizen of Umatilla County and the region. He organized the nationally recognized

Umatilla County Neighborhood Watch and Rural Crime Prevention Program that now has 17 units and over 800 active members. Recognizing the rural nature of Umatilla County and the challenges that are posed, especially in the winter, John implemented an all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile patrol program, for search, rescue, and patrols. Whether it was creating a program to take meth off the streets or sending a bill to a foreign county for the care and feeding of their citizens, Sheriff Trumbo has always looked for simple, straightforward solutions to solving problems.

Although John has retired as Sheriff, I know he won't be ending his service to Pendleton or Umatilla County. In fact, John remains an active volunteer with the Pendleton Round-Up, serving as the Board of Director who heads up security during the world famous rodeo. In this role he spearheads efforts to provide protection and safety of thousands of people attending the performances and visiting the community, including helping those wayward individuals leaving the "Let'er Buck" room stay out of trouble!

I also know he will be spending plenty of well-earned time on those things he loves, whether it is traveling horseback across the county with his grandchildren, woodworking, or camping with his family. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Sheriff John Trumbo the best in his retirement. Sheriff, thanks for all your service to Umatilla County, the region, and our fine State of Oregon. You may be able to turn that cell phone off from time to time now!

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 7 on H.R. 41 "To temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program," I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2012 STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM

### HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the 2012 Stony Brook University Baseball team on a record-setting season with its "Shock the World" rallying cry.

The Seawolves finished the regular season with a 43–11 record and won their second straight conference regular season title. The team also swept the major conference awards, bringing home Coach of the Year, Player of the Year, and Pitcher of the Year. Twelve players were named all-conference. But the team's success did not end there.

After winning its conference, Stony Brook went on to win the America East Champion-

ship for the second time in three seasons. The Seawolves then competed in the Coral Gables Regional of the NCAA tournament. The tournament, attended by four teams, was statistically the toughest regional tournament in the country. The team was able to prevail over the three other competitors and advance to the Super Regional in Baton Rouge.

In the Super Regional, the Seawolves faced the LSU Tigers in a best-of-three tournament. After falling behind in Game 1, the Seawolves won Game 2 to force a winner-take-all Game 3. Although the Tigers took an early lead, the Seawolves won the game to become the first Northeast region school to advance to the College World Series since the end of geographic regional tournaments in 1987.

The Seawolves went to Omaha as the team that had captured the attention and the hearts of observers throughout the country. The team embraced the rallying cry "Shock the World" as a mission; it set out to leave a mark on the national stage and make Stony Brook a household name. Unfortunately, the Seawolves were eliminated from the College World Series after a loss to Florida State, but they were successful in their mission to raise the profile of the Stony Brook University athletic program. The question, "What's a sea wolf?" is now able to be answered by people who have never set foot on the Stony Brook campus.

By the end of the post-season, Stony Brook had compiled an NCAA-best 52 wins. For the 2011 and 2012 seasons combined, the team has a winning percentage of .777, the best in the nation. In addition to its playoff run, the team reached a number of milestones for its program. Coach Matt Senk became the third coach in the history of the conference to win 6,000 games. The program also had a record seven players drafted in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft, including its first player to be drafted in the first round. All seven players have signed with major league organizations.

Stony Brook's remarkable season of triumphs was recognized by the local news media as among the top sports moments of 2012, and the coaches and members of the team were named People of the Year in Sports by a local newspaper. These are a few among the many ways the team has been honored by organizations across Long Island, and I am so very proud to represent this outstanding baseball team and Stony Brook University as their representative in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's first congressional district, I again congratulate the 2012 Stony Brook University Baseball team on its record-breaking season and wish the program continued success. Go Seawolves!

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE 21ST CENTURY READINESS ACT OF 2013

### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, in order for our students to be competitive in the global economy, we must do our part to ensure that they are acquiring the knowledge and skills they need for success.

The skills needed for success go beyond the basics of reading, writing, and math, how-

ever. When surveyed, employers continually emphasize that, in our 21st century economy, students need to be adept at critical thinking and problem solving; communication; collaboration; and creativity and innovation, in addition to being proficient in core subjects.

Sixteen states, as well as local school districts from across the country, have formed a partnership with over thirty leading education organizations and corporate entities to find ways to strengthen 21st century skills in their K–12 classrooms. However, this momentum isn't sustainable unless federal policy gives states and districts the flexibility to innovate in this direction.

To remedy this, Rep. DAVE LOEBACK and I are introducing the 21st Century Readiness Act. This bill does not create any new programs or authorize additional spending; instead, it would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to emphasize the importance of 21st century skills and give states and districts added flexibility to develop and enhance these skills as part of their own initiatives.

A growing coalition of states and school districts has recognized the importance of giving our students the tools they need to succeed in our 21st century workforce. This bill will give them the flexibility to succeed in these efforts.

I hope that our colleagues will join us in this effort.

#### A CLARION CALL FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter I recently sent to over three hundred national faith leaders encouraging them to use their platform and lend their voice to the cause of the persecuted church globally.

DEAR FRIEND: Christians worldwide just celebrated the birth of Jesus. For those of us living in the West, this was a festive season marked by worship services, gift-giving and time with family and friends. But for our brethren in the Middle East, fear of persecution and outright violence or even death cast a long dark shadow over the Christmas holiday.

While most striking in the Middle East, given the ancient roots of Christianity in that part of the world, the challenges facing those believers are by no means isolated, nor are they anything "new under the sun."

Ecclesiastes 4:1 says, "I saw the tears of the oppressed, and they have no comforter; power was on the side of the oppressor." As you well know, oppression has marked the church since its birth. Consider the chilling words of Roman historian Tacitus regarding the early church:

"Besides being put to death they were made to serve as objects of amusement; they were clad in the hides of beasts and torn to death by dogs; others were crucified, others set on fire to serve to illuminate the night when daylight failed. . ."

Every day, around the world, men and women of faith are imprisoned, beaten, detained, tortured and even killed. The book of Hebrews enjoins us to "remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." Do we suffer with our brethren? Have we in the West ceased to be salt and light?

Consider that on our watch a historic exodus of Christians from the Middle East is underway—an exodus fueled by persecution.

German Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, faced with the tyranny and horror of Nazism, famously said, “Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

And that is precisely what many in the church did, or failed to do, as Hitler unleashed his murderous plans. I recently encountered this haunting account by a German Christian in the book *When a Nation Forgets God*:

“I lived in Germany during the Nazi Holocaust. I considered myself a Christian. We heard stories of what was happening to the Jews, but we tried to distance ourselves from it, because, what could anyone do to stop it?

A railroad track ran behind our small church and each Sunday morning we could hear the whistle in the distance and then the wheels coming over the tracks. We became disturbed when we heard the cries coming from the train as it passed by. We realized that it was carrying Jews like cattle in the cars!

Week after week the whistle would blow. We dreaded to hear the sound of those wheels because we knew that we would hear the cries of the Jews en route to a death camp. Their screams tormented us.

We knew the time the train was coming and when we heard the whistle blow we began singing hymns. By the time the train came past our church we were singing at the top of our voices. If we heard the screams, we sang more loudly and soon we heard them no more.

Years have passed and no one talks about it anymore. But I still hear that train whistle in my sleep. God forgive me; forgive all of us who called ourselves Christians and yet did nothing to intervene.”

The parallels are imperfect but the sentiments are the same. Has our comfort led to complacency? Can the church in the West be galvanized to act?

A phrase not often heard outside the majority Muslim world is “First the Saturday people, then the Sunday people.” The “Saturday people” are of course the Jews. Their once vibrant communities in countries throughout the region are now decimated. In 1948 there were roughly 150,000 Jews in Iraq; today less than 10 remain. In Egypt, there were once as many as 80,000 Jews; now less than 100 remain.

It appears a similar fate awaits the ancient Christian community in these same lands. Iraq’s Christian population has fallen from as many as 1.4 million in 2003 to between 500,000 and 700,000 today. Churches have been targeted, believers kidnapped for ransom and families threatened with violence if they stay. In October 2010, Islamist extremists laid siege on Our Lady of Salvation Catholic Church in Baghdad killing over 50 hostages and police and wounding dozens more.

In Egypt with the ascent of the Muslim Brotherhood, Coptic Christians, numbering roughly 8 to 10 million, are leaving in droves. Ironically, some 2,000 years ago, the Holy Family sought refuge in this same land from the murderous aims of King Herod.

In the midst of devastating bloodshed in Syria, the Christian population is particularly vulnerable. A recent ABC News story reported, “They [Christians] are fearful that Syria will become another Iraq, with Christians caught in the crossfire between rival Islamic groups.”

Over the span of a few decades, the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, was virtually emptied of Jews. The same thing will happen to the Christian community if the current trajectory holds true. And yet, the silence of many in the West is deafening.

Such stories receive scant attention in the mainstream media, and perhaps more strikingly, are rarely spoken of from our pulpits.

A recent study on Christian persecution released by the British-based think tank Civitas explained the media’s seeming ambivalence this way: “Parts of the media have been influenced by the logical error that equates criticism of Muslims with racism, and therefore as wrong by definition. This has further distracted attention away from the hounding of Christians, helping to cement the surprisingly widespread idea that Christianity is a ‘Western’ faith.”

And yet, we in the church ought to know better. The Middle East is the very cradle of Christendom. Consider Iraq: with the exception of Israel, the Bible contains more references to the cities, regions and nations of ancient Iraq than any other country. The patriarch Abraham came from a city in Iraq called Ur. Isaac’s bride, Rebekah, came from northwest Iraq. Jacob spent 20 years in Iraq and his sons (the 12 tribes of Israel) were born in northwest Iraq. A remarkable spiritual revival as told in the book of Jonah occurred in Nineveh. The events of the book of Esther took place in Iraq as did the account of Daniel in the Lion’s Den. Furthermore, many of Iraq’s Christians still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus.

So how do we account for the Church’s indifference? Is it political correctness? Lack of awareness? What tragedy must befall this community before we are propelled to act?

The persecution plaguing the Middle East is no exception. Christians are targeted throughout the world in countries like China, Vietnam and Pakistan. According to the Civitas study, “More Christians are imprisoned in China than in any other country in the world.” If the faith community in the West isn’t engaged, are we surprised when government leaders turn a blind eye to matters of religious freedom?

Consider the following: bipartisan legislation to create a special envoy position at the State Department charged with advocating on behalf of religious minorities in the Middle East and South Central Asia overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives more than a year and a half ago. But it remained stalled in the Senate as a result of State Department opposition and the refusal of the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and presumptive secretary of state, John Kerry, to even hold a hearing on the legislation.

I have had the privilege of meeting individuals who boldly follow Jesus despite unbelievably hostile circumstances. Shabbaz Bhatti, Pakistan’s federal minister for minority affairs, and the only Christian Member of the cabinet and an outspoken critic of his country’s blasphemy laws, was one such man. On March 2, 2011 he was murdered, his car riddled with bullets, leaving his mother’s house for work. In a video filmed shortly before his assassination (accessible on my Web site at <http://wolf.house.gov/bhattivideo>), Bhatti appears to sense that the path he has chosen will come with a price.

When asked about the threats against his life, he said, without malice or fear, “I believe in Jesus Christ who has given his own life for us. I know what is the meaning of [the] cross. And I am following the cross. And I am ready to die for a cause.” And so he did.

The book of Proverbs tells us to “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves . . .” Bhatti can no longer speak. The Chinese bishop under house arrest cannot speak. The North Korean believer enslaved in the gulag can’t speak. The Iraqi nun fearing for her life cannot speak.

Will we be their voice? Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said, “In the end, we will

remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” Are we not their friends?

The Church globally is under assault. Our response must not be to simply sing more loudly, thereby drowning out the cries for help from our brothers and sisters. Rather we must speak out, advocate and act on their behalf.

From my perspective the Church in the West, specifically in America, is failing in this regard. Can you, as a leader in the Church, help? Are you pained by these accounts of persecution? Do you have ideas about how best to respond? Will you use your sphere of influence to raise the profile of this issue—be it through a sermon, writing or media interview? I welcome your thoughts and invite your engagement in this monumental task.

Next week, when Congress reconvenes, I intend to reintroduce the special envoy legislation and press for passage in both houses of Congress. I don’t pretend to think that a special envoy will single-handedly solve the problem, but it certainly can’t hurt to have a high-level person within the State Department bureaucracy who is exclusively focused on the protection and preservation of these ancient communities. Furthermore, to do nothing is simply not an option.

We in the West must speak out on behalf of the persecuted church around the world.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
*Member of Congress.*

P.S. I know you are busy and have so many competing priorities but your involvement could really make a difference in the lives of believers around the world.

## CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week, which is February 7th–14th.

This week is dedicated to the millions of Americans who have been diagnosed with Congenital Heart Defects, the challenges their families face and for the families of those who have sadly lost loved ones to this condition. Congenital Heart Disease is considered to be the most common birth defect and is also the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide.

Each year approximately forty thousand babies are born in the United States with Congenital Heart Defects and some remain undiagnosed for months or even years after birth. This dangerous condition, if left undiagnosed, can cause sudden cardiac death especially in young adolescent athletes.

Unfortunately, despite these statistics, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for Congenital Heart Defects and funding for research regarding the condition is limited.

Mr. Speaker, Congenital Heart Defects affect millions of Americans and I rise to recognize those affected by this condition and to help bring awareness to this important cause.

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 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 \$16,432,619,424,703.06. We've added \$5,804,658,128,772.39 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$5.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

## TRIBUTE TO CLAUDIA LUPPINO

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to southern California are exceptional. Our community has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Claudia Luppino is one of these individuals. On Friday, January 4, 2013, Claudia ended her tenure as the Area Director for the Inland Area jurisdiction of the Social Security Administration (SSA) after 37 years of service.

Claudia grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania, where she and her future husband Bud were high school sweethearts. After graduating from Erie Business College, the young military wife began her government career with the U.S. Army Computer Systems Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, later transferring to March Air Force Base in Riverside. In 1977, after Bud left the Air Force, she began her career with Social Security as the Administrative Aide in the Riverside District office. Since then, she has held more than a dozen positions with the Agency, including Claims Representative, Operations Analyst and Operations Supervisor.

In 1985 Claudia was selected as the Area Analyst in the Inland Area Director's Office (ADO), and in 1987 she became the District Manager in the Redlands Office, where she served for two years before being selected as the Operations Officer in San Bernardino. In 1993 Claudia rejoined the Inland ADO as the Area Administrative Assistant, and later went on to serve as the Assistant District Manager in Palm Springs, District Manager in North Las Vegas, District Manager in Victorville, Deputy Area Director in the Inland Area Director's Office and the District Manager for the Riverside District. Claudia is a graduate of the Region IX Leadership Development Program and has received numerous awards, including the Regional Commissioner's Citation.

Claudia recently concluded an assignment as the Acting Area Director in the Los Angeles Metro Area. She served for over six months as the Acting Area Director in the Inland Area, where she oversaw 540 employees in 16 offices in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, and all of Nevada. It was a responsibility

she took seriously. According to her, "There is no other government agency that provides the critical services SSA does, providing retirement, survivors and disability benefits as well as Supplemental Security Income benefits to the American public." What she will miss most about her job, she said, "is that very ability to make a difference in the lives of so many people."

In her retirement, Claudia plans to help her husband Bud with his business, Bud's Tire and Wheel, Inc. in Riverside, and a shop in Moreno Valley. They will soon begin construction on a third location in Riverside. She also looks forward to traveling more, learning Italian and spending time with her three grandsons.

In light of all Claudia has done for southern California seniors, it is only fitting that she be honored for her many years of dedicated service. Claudia's tireless passion for public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Inland Empire and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

## RECOGNITION OF STEVEN GOLDSTEIN

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Steven Goldstein as he embarks on a new venture in life. Mr. Goldstein has worked tirelessly on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in New Jersey and it is my honor to celebrate him at Garden State Equality's Inauguration Brunch.

Steven Goldstein founded Garden State Equality in 2004 and has since led it as CEO and Chair. During his tenure, Garden State Equality has seen 213 LGBT civil rights laws enacted in N.J. A proponent of equal rights for all, Garden State Equality, under Mr. Goldstein's leadership, also advocated for anti-bullying laws and created programs aimed at helping N.J.'s youth. As Mr. Goldstein passes on the torch as CEO and Chair of Garden State Equality to pursue a new career as Associate Chancellor for External Affairs at Rutgers University—Newark, he remains committed to the organization and its cause and will serve as its Honorary Chair on the Board and executive committee.

Mr. Goldstein earned a B.A. from Brandeis University, an M.P.P. from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, an M.S. from the Columbia School of Journalism and a J.D. from Columbia Law School. In addition to his time at Garden State Equality, Mr. Goldstein's resume includes working as a senior staff member in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, a co-campaign manager of a U.S. Senate campaign in N.J., a television producer and an educator. He also endeavors to become a rabbi and is working toward that goal.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking Steven Goldstein for his years of service to Garden State Equality and his immeasurable contributions to the State of New

Jersey. Mr. Goldstein's leadership and ongoing accomplishments are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

## HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN JO ANN EMERSON ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American who leaves this body today to return to the private sector, my wonderful friend from Cape Girardeau . . . Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON. Her retirement is a great loss to the citizens of southeast Missouri, to our State, and to our Nation.

As the outgoing dean of Missouri's congressional delegation, she has led our group with fairness, respect, and a spirit of cooperation. As she retires today, I know that every member of the Missouri delegation, as well as her many friends on both sides of the aisle, join me in congratulating her on an exceptional career in the U.S. House. Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON has represented southeast Missouri with honor and integrity and in the face of so much discord, so much distortion, and too often, an inability to compromise,

Jo ANN has always been a voice of calm, reason, and good common sense. There is no doubt that the center aisle caucus will miss her strong, principled leadership. Congresswoman EMERSON is a member who searches for common ground . . .

Both out of instinct and because of her deeply held belief that Congress was sent here to work together to solve problems, not to obstruct the government, not to incite intolerance or rancor, not to set one region of the country against the other, but to seek out, and then support a common agenda that will do the most good for America.

That is how JO ANN has lived her life, and that is how she has served. Congresswoman EMERSON is a skilled legislator, she is a wonderful colleague, and she is a great friend of mine. Congresswoman EMERSON represents the best of Missouri.

I will miss her wise voice as Democrats and Republicans seek common ground to move the Nation forward. My only consolation on her retirement, is the knowledge that my good friend, her husband, attorney Ron Gladney, and their wonderful children . . . will finally have their wife and mother back. And that is a great family blessing that we should all understand and appreciate. From the dark days immediately after she assumed the congressional seat of her late husband . . . Congressman Bill Emerson.

Jo ANN has brought the Missouri values of common sense, family, community, faith, and freedom to the floor every day.

I shall miss her wisdom, her kindness, and her decency, and I know that our State, this honorable body, and our Nation will be forever grateful for her service.

Congresswoman, I thank you for all your help and friendship, I congratulate you on your retirement. May God bless you and your family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA BUDGET AUTON-  
OMY ACT OF 2013

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, District of Columbia residents raise billions of dollars annually for their local budget, and, like Americans everywhere, regard the right to control the funds they themselves raise to support their city as fundamental to their American citizenship. Therefore, today I introduce the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2013, the second bill I have introduced this Congress, to allow the District's local-taxpayer-raised budget to take effect immediately when passed by the city, without being subject to congressional approval.

Control over the dollars raised by local taxpayers is central to local control, the oldest American government principle. Beyond this core principle, permitting the city's local budget to become law without congressional approval would have multiple practical benefits for both the city and Congress. For the city, a timely budget means eliminating the uncertainty of the congressional approval process, which has a negative effect on the city's bond rating, adding unnecessary interest costs for local taxpayers; significantly improving the District's ability to make accurate revenue forecasts; and reducing the countless operational problems that result because the city's budget cannot be implemented until Congress approves it. Also of major importance is that the bill would allow the District to use the typical state and local government fiscal year (July 1–June 30), allowing ample time to prepare for the opening of schools in September, instead of the federal fiscal year (October 1–September 30). Moreover, the D.C. local budget consumes valuable subcommittee, committee, and floor time in both houses of Congress, the most inefficient and redundant annual process in the Congress, yet the D.C. budget is of interest only to those members who use it to promote their own issues, violating a principle of local self-government that they value for their own districts and states.

Increasing recognition of the hardships and delays caused by the congressional approval process has led Congress to begin freeing the city from many congressional constraints. I appreciate that my bill to avoid a D.C. government shutdown when the federal government shuts down is in the Senate Appropriations Committee-passed fiscal year 2013 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill. President Obama included this provision in his fiscal year 2013 budget, and the Republican-controlled House Appropriations Committee indicated in its report accompanying its fiscal year 2013 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill that legislation to avoid D.C. shutdowns was necessary. In addition, several years ago, I negotiated an agreement with a Republican-

led appropriations committee that ensures that the city's local budget is approved in the first continuing resolution (CR) if the D.C. Appropriations bill has not been approved by the start of the fiscal year. This approach ended the annual nightmares of lengthy delay of the budget of a big city until an appropriations bill was passed, often months after the start of the fiscal year. As a result, under CRs, the city has been able to spend its local funds at the next year's funding level, even though federal agencies must spend at the prior year's funding level. We are appreciative that this process, which eliminated serious problems for the functioning of the D.C. government, has continued.

We nearly secured budget autonomy for the District in the last days of the lame-duck session in the 111th Congress. I used an unusual procedure, getting the House authorizers to agree to the inclusion of budget autonomy in the fiscal year 2011 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill, which was passed by the subcommittee. Unfortunately, Congress passed a CR instead of regular appropriations bills in the lame duck.

Most important, we gained critical support for D.C. budget autonomy in the 112th Congress. In an Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing in May 2011, Chairman DARRELL ISSA (R-CA) endorsed budget autonomy. Since that time, House Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR (R-VA) and Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell (R) have both indicated their support for budget autonomy.

Even if the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2013 were enacted, Congress would still retain jurisdiction over the District of Columbia under article I, section 8, clause 17 of the U.S. Constitution. Because this authority allows Congress to make changes to the District's budget and other laws at any time, it is unnecessary to require a lengthy repetition of the District's local budget process in Congress. The time is overdue to permit the city to enact its local budget, the single most important step Congress could take to help the District better manage itself.

Members of Congress were sent here to do the business of the nation. Members have no reason to be interested in or to become knowledgeable about the local budget of a single city. In the past, the House and Senate have more often than not passed the District's budget as is. Our bill takes the Congress in the direction it is already moving in. Congressional interference in one of the most vital rights of self-government should end this year by enacting the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2013.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 9, on final passage of H.R. 152, "Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013" I am not re-

corded because I was absent due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 14, 2013, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 8 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 219), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 9 (on approving the journal), "no" on rollcall vote No. 10 (on the motion to adjourn).

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE  
PANTHEON-BOURGEOIS GUITARS

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2013*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pantheon-Bourgeois Guitars, LLC on winning the first annual Achievement Award from the Small Enterprise Growth Fund (SEGO).

Pantheon-Bourgeois Guitars was formed in 2000 after Dana Bourgeois, a well known luthier, and a group of new business investors collaborated over a shared vision. In just over 12 years, the company has built a reputation among professional musicians for being among the finest crafted acoustic guitars in the world. Today, Dana and his craftsmen build about thirty guitars every month in the historic Roy Continental Mill in Lewiston, Maine.

Pantheon-Bourgeois Guitars was recently honored by SEGF with its first annual Achievement Award, which recognizes the company's tremendous revenue growth and exceptional productivity in the past year. This award follows a fruitful collaboration with Maine's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), which provides business and technical assistance to help our state's small businesses thrive. With the help of Maine MEP, Pantheon-Bourgeois Guitars expanded its weekly production by 50 percent. The company has additional plans to implement improvements that will boost future productivity and efficiency.

A professionally-managed venture capital fund, the SEGF has been investing only in Maine companies who exhibit the potential for growth and public benefit since 1997. This well deserved award solidifies Pantheon-Bourgeois Guitars as valued member of Maine's business community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating Pantheon-Bourgeois Guitars on earning SEGF's Achievement Award.