HONORING CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CHRIS KYLE

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I solemnly stand today to honor and pay respect to a true American patriot, a devoted father, and a loving husband, Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle. Sadly, on February 2, 2013, Chris and close friend Chad Littlefield were tragically killed on a remote ranch in Texas while attempting to help a troubled veteran who was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Chris leaves behind his lovely wife Taya, and their two children.

Born on April 8, 1974 in Odessa, Texas, Chris began shooting and hunting with his father when he was eight years old. After an accident ended a short-lived career as a professional bronco rider, Chris was moved from within to satisfy his life-long desire to serve his country and join the military. Chris enlisted in the United States Navy, and ultimately worked his way to becoming a member of the United States Navy's Sea, Air, Land Teams, also known as the U.S. Navy Seals, one of our nation's most elite group of special forces units.

From 1999 to 2009, Chris served four tours in Iraq as a member of SEAL Team 3 where he was involved in every major battle of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout his time in Iraq, Chris' courage and heroism in battle earned him the title and honor of the most elite sniper in U.S. history.

Feared for his deadly accuracy, Chris was nicknamed The Devil of Ramadi by insurgents, and recorded a record 150 confirmed kills—one of which was a 2,100-yard strike, 1.2 miles away. More importantly however, Chris is most remembered for his selfless and unwavering ability to protect American troops while perched on rooftops. In fact, despite being shot twice and directly involved in multiple IED explosions during his tours, Chris always made doing his job and his fellow teammates his top priority. For his bravery, Chris was awarded two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medals, and one Navy and Marine Corps Commendation.

In 2009, Chris retired from his military career in order to dedicate more time to his wife and family. Shortly after, he released his New York Times bestselling autobiography, American Sniper, which shares his battle experiences and sheds light on the true sacrifices that service members and their families endure. Unprepared for the books immediate success, Chris ultimately donated proceeds from the book to the families of fallen service members. For those that knew Chris personally, this was nothing out of the ordinary.

Chris was not just an exemplary soldier; he was a successful businessman, a trusted friend and team member, and a devoted husband, father, and son. He lived by the professional motto, "It is our duty to serve those who serve us." This principle became the driving force behind his decision to found Craft International, a military and law enforcement training and security company, as well as help create Fitco Cares Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps veterans overcome post-traumatic stress disorder and adjust to civilian.

As a former veteran myself, I truly understand the sacrifices Chris and his family made for our great country. Chris' devotion to a higher calling and his commitment to God, Country, and Family should serve as a constant reminder that freedom isn't free. We all owe a debt to men and women like Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Officer Chris Kyle, a true American hero and a man of great principle. I extend my deepest condolences to Chris' family, and my thoughts and prayers are with them as they move forward in Chris' honor.

RECOGNIZING SIX GRADUATING SENIOR BASKETBALL PLAYERS AT BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six outstanding members of the senior class at Buffalo State College. Four members of the men's varsity basketball team, Anthony Hamer, Jake Simmons, Seth Runge, and Ken Owusu, and two members of the women's basketball team, Erica Derby and Alicia Bowman, will graduate this spring. I commend each of these students for their contributions to Buffalo State, and congratulate them at the culmination of their illustrious collegiate athletic careers.

Scholar athletes have the unique challenge of balancing the academic demands of undergraduate work with the physical demands of a collegiate sports program. Full participation in each requires incredible discipline and commitment. Each student athlete is accountable not only to themselves, but to their teammates, coaches, and greater campus community.

Despite such great expectations, Anthony, Jake, Seth, Ken, Erica and Alicia have excelled. Each will earn their bachelor's degree. Jake has the distinct honor of scoring the most points in the history of Buffalo State men's basketball. As an alumnus of Buffalo State College myself, I will be proud to call them fellow alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing my colleagues to join me in recognizing these exceptional Buffalo State Bengals and wishing them the best as they complete their undergraduate careers. I have no doubt their work ethic and determination will bring them success in all their future endeavors.

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, 2013 will mark the 10th anniversary of a unique and historical gathering of scientists from 15 Middle East countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. In 2003, the first conference, "Frontier of Chemical Sciences: Research and Education in the Middle East—A Bridge to Peace," was held on the Mediterranean island of Malta. These conferences later came to be known as "The Malta Conferences."

In each of the conferences, scientists meet for five days with six Nobel Laureates to work on scientific issues of importance to the region: Air and Water Quality, Alternative Energy Sources, Nanotechnology and Material Science, Medicinal Chemistry, and Science Education for All Levels. Since 2003, five conferences were held. By invitation from UNESCO, Malta V was held at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris in December 2011. The conference was opened by the Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, and followed by a speech by HRH Prince Hassan of Jordan on his vision for the new Middle East.

Although acts of war and terrorism have destabilized the political and economic climate in the Middle East and around the world, it remains possible for scientists from opposing sides of the political and cultural conflict to meet in an attempt to forge relationships that bridge the deep chasms of distrust and intolerance.

In the Middle East, it is especially important that stable, mutually respectful, personal relationships be created that will enhance research interactions and collaborations, contribute to a more peaceful atmosphere, encourage international development, help establish a more favorable environment for regional peace and security, and foster further growth in regional scientific and technological cooperation. This is the goal of the Malta Conferences.

In 2012, the Malta Conferences Foundation was established as a nonprofit organization and my great friend and constituent Zafra Lerman was elected its president. Like other people who foster social change, she too had a dream. The fulfillment of this dream was the Malta Conferences.

Zafra Lerman is a world-renowned scientist and science educator. She received her Ph.D. from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and conducted research on isotope effects at Cornell University, Northwestern University, and at the Swiss Polytechnic in Zurich, Switzerland. Professor Lerman developed an innovative approach of teaching science to non-science majors by integrating science with the arts, and with students' personal interests and cultural backgrounds. These methods have received national and international recognition. She has been invited to lecture on her methods all over the U.S. and around the world.

For the past 25 years, she has worked tirelessly on behalf of dissidents all over the world. She chaired the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights for the American Chemical Society (ACS). At great risk to her personal safety, she has worked within the Soviet Union, China and other countries and has succeeded in preventing executions, releasing prisoners of conscience from jail and bringing dissidents into freedom.

Professor Lerman has received many national and international awards. In 1999, she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from President Clinton. In 1998, she received the Kilby Laureate Award for extraordinary contribution to society through science,

technology, invention, innovation and education. In 2003, she was the recipient of the American Chemical Society's (ACS) Parsons Award in recognition of outstanding public service to society through chemistry. The Royal Society of Chemistry in England awarded her the 2005 Nyholm Award, and the New York Academy of Sciences presented her with the 2005 Heinz Pagels Human Rights for Scientists Award. She received the 2007 George Brown Award for International Scientific Cooperation from the U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation (CRDF). In 2011, she received an award for Stimulating Collaborations and Ensuring Human Rights by the International Conference on Chemistry for Mankind in India.

The capstone of her career is her work on the Malta Conferences. The Malta Conferences are the only platform where scientists from 15 Middle East countries are collaborating and cooperating on scientific issues as well as developing professional and personal relationships with each other. The common language of science is used for science diplomacy, which serves as a bridge to peace, tolerance and understanding in the Middle East and improves the relationships between the Muslim countries and the U.S., and between the Arabs, Iranians and Israelis.

IN HONOR OF BOBBY MOEGLE

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bobby Moegle, a coaching legend from Lubbock, Texas. Coach Moegle was recently inducted into the 2012 Class of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame for his outstanding coaching career and contributions to the community.

Coach Moegle was the first baseball coach Monterey High School hired and he kept that title for the next 40 years. His career record was an astounding 1,115–267. He won four state championships in 1972, 1974, 1981 and 1996. Additionally, his teams won 33 district championships. In 1972 he was named the National Baseball Coach of the Year.

Players respected Coach Moegle both on and off the field. More than 100 of his players made it to the collegiate level and 20 signed professional contracts. Coach Moegle built a baseball program on the High Plains that was the envy of the region. His teams were usually considered to be among the best mentally and physically prepared on the baseball field. Their intense practices and weight training programs paid dividends in the form of consistent winning seasons.

Beyond his winning record, Coach Moegle was a great mentor for his players and students. He is still very highly respected in the Lubbock community and across Texas. Many of his former players acknowledge the skills and habits they learned under Coach Moegle prepared them for the many challenges of life that came after high school.

Mr. Speaker please join me in recognizing Coach Moegle for his outstanding coaching career. Monterey High School and the City of Lubbock were truly blessed to have someone of the character and integrity of Coach Moegle to teach our kids the lessons of baseball and life for so many years.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LLOYD ANDRE ROLLINS

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Lloyd Andre Rollins of Columbus, Ohio. A true American hero, Mr. Rollins' service here on earth came to a close on January 30, 2013. An Ohioan and veteran of the United States Air Force, he is among the countless number of fearless warriors and veterans who have devoted their lives to serving our great nation.

In 1957, Mr. Rollins began his service in the United States Air Force. He was later transferred to the Department of State and sworn into the U.S. Foreign Service, where he served for 27 years. Mr. Rollins was awarded a Medal of Valor after he was taken hostage during the 1979 siege of the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran.

Mr. Rollins is survived by his wife, Judy, and his two daughters, Patricia and Terri. As I pray for the family and friends of Mr. Rollins, I ask that all Members of Congress join me in offering our deepest appreciation and gratitude for his life and service to this country.

THE MEDICAL RESEARCH PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medical Research Protection Act of 2013. This bill will protect our national investments in biomedical research from impending automatic federal budget cuts. If we do nothing, these automatic budget cuts or "sequester" will cancel $85 billion in federal spending between March 1 and September 30, including roughly $2 billion from the National Institutes of Health budget. That amounts to a failure to fund or renew funding for some 2,000 grants at America's research universities, where the world's top scientists are discovering treatments for diseases like cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and HIV/AIDS. This bill would ensure that NIH's budget is protected for the balance of this fiscal year.

I have opposed the sequester—a senseless and irresponsible approach to deficit reduction—since day one. I voted against the bill that put the sequester in place, and I have sponsored a bill with my colleagues in the Progressive Caucus to remove the entire sequester, to protect critical programs like Medicare, Head Start, Community Health Centers, and so many other priorities.

That said, Seattle's economy relies uniquely on federal funding for biomedical research. Science and technological innovation is the lifeblood of our local economy and a source of tremendous civic pride. The University of Washington receives more federal funding than any other public university in the nation, and is the state's third largest employer. The great majority of the UW's federal funds come from the NIH. This academic hub creates a spillover effect in the private sector that has made Seattle one of the brightest destinations for scientists the world over. It is no exaggeration to say that sequestration of research funding threatens the heart of Seattle's economy, which is why I am introducing a standalone measure today to stop cuts to the NIH.

To be clear, this bill will turn off the sequester for NIH from the period of March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013, and reduce the amount of the sequester by that amount to avoid deeper cuts to other programs.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF PAUL WOODS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and service of Paul Woods as he prepares to celebrate his 90th birthday on February 20th, 2013.

Paul Woods was born in Basemore, Alabama, to Nora Fiels Woods and Anderson Sherman Woods. From an early age, the foundation of Paul's life was his family. Paul's family included six brothers and sisters in addition to seven half-brothers and sisters through his father. Sadly, Anderson Woods passed away when Paul was seven years old. Surviving relatives split up the seven children in order to care for them, leaving Paul to be raised by his wealthy Uncle Henry.

In 1941, at age 17, Paul enlisted in the United States Army. He was immediately deployed to the Philippines to fight in World War II. Despite the Army's imposed racial segregation, Paul cared for his fellow soldiers like family, believing "a bullet knows no race, rank, or status. We were all brothers on the battlefield."

Paul took great pride in his service, and often told his children of landing on the Philippine shoreline in LST990 boats. Paul earned three Bronze Stars in the Philippines for his actions in combat. After his tour of duty, Paul served in the Military Occupation Specialties, delivering ammunition across the continent of Australia. In 1945 he was granted an honorable discharge.

After returning home to Birmingham, Alabama, Paul met Mary T. Lucas, the love of his life. In 1953, the couple moved to Buffalo, and would reside in Western New York for the rest of their 59 year marriage. Paul began a 31 year career at Bethlehem Steel in July 1954, often working 16 hour days and nine shifts a week to support his family. In 1966, the Woods family moved to Angola, New York, but Paul continued to commute to Bethlehem Steel until the plant closed.

Paul and Mary's family expanded to fourteen children over the course of their 59 year marriage. A true patriarch, Paul's greatest joy came from building his beautiful, thriving family. Paul believed in education as a tool to foster love and acceptance, and raised his children to value the same. All fourteen children attended college, and five followed their father's footsteps in the armed forces. As Paul's children had children of their own, Paul helped