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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 8, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK 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:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the Members of this assembly return from days away celebrating our Nation's birth, grant them safe journey. May they return ready to assume a difficult work which must be done.

We pray for the needs of the Nation and world and all of creation. Bless those who seek to honor You and serve each other and all Americans in this House through their public service. May the words and deeds of this place reflect an earnest desire for justice, and may men and women in government build on the tradition of equity and truth that represents the noblest heritage of our people.

May Your blessing, O God, be with us this day and every day to come, and may all we do 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. ISRAEL 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.

AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it's time to get serious about American energy independence.

Removing barriers to safe offshore energy production is a necessary component of a serious American energy strategy. Our country has been blessed with an abundance of resources; and if we utilize those resources responsibly rather than ignore them, we can reduce dependence on foreign oil by creating 1 million new jobs.

During the same week an Obama global warming adviser stated that a ''war on coal is exactly what's needed,'' Republicans worked to lower energy prices, to move our country away from dependence on foreign oil, and to create jobs. This stands in stark contrast to President Obama's energy priorities. Under his Environmental Protection Agency, 17 North Carolina coal units are being shut down; gas prices remain high; and the shovel-ready Keystone XL pipeline remains stalled.

Jobless Americans and working families deserve better. The President would do well to follow the all-of-the-above energy strategy we led with in the House.

THE RESILIENCE OF OUR FAITHS

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, with so many challenges in the world today—student loan rates, turmoil in Egypt and in Syria, and jobs at home—I think it's important for us to remind ourselves of the resilience of our faiths.

Recently, in New York, I joined Monsignor Brendan Riordan and the congregation of the St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck to celebrate their centennial jubilee.

St. Aloysius was established in 1876. In 1913, ground was broken for the beautiful church that stands today. It stands today with 1,200 families, worshiping in English, in Spanish, and in Korean, with food banks and immigration counseling and human services and interfaith partnerships.

I am privileged to represent St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck, Mr. Speaker, and I am especially privileged to talk about it on the floor of this Congress today.

OBAMACARE EMPLOYER MANDATE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare's long-term care insurance program has been abandoned and repealed. Its preexisting conditions insurance program has been shut down. Its small business exchanges have been delayed—and on and on with this train wreck.

Last week, the President chose to blatantly ignore his own law by putting off the employer mandate until 2015. There is no waiver procedure in the bill. I guess Senator REID didn't think it important when he was crafting the bill behind closed doors.

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Businesses across the country are confused about ObamaCare, and this does nothing to clear up that confusion. It just puts it off to a more politically convenient time—beyond the 2014 midterm elections. The mandate has already reduced working hours for many Americans and has discouraged the creation of full-time jobs. Businesses have already spent billions in getting ready to comply. ObamaCare is already a failure—harming businesses, workers, and American health care.

The President has chosen to break his own law by his actions. Let's stop the extralegal waivers. Give every American a waiver by repealing the law completely.

ELIMINATING VERIFICATION

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, last week, the administration once again adjusted the Affordable Care Act in an effort to try to save this takeover of the Nation's health care.

On Friday, the latest change was announced: The new health care exchanges will not verify an individual's income for the year as was originally planned.

By eliminating the verification requirement, how will the government determine who gets health care subsidies? They're going to use the honor system—because no one would lie about something like that.

This will open the exchanges to a staggering amount of potential fraud. It is also clearly a political move. The administration has made it clear that they want as many people as possible to sign up for the exchanges so they can reap the public relations benefits of talking about the popularity of said exchanges.

All of this comes at a time when the Federal health programs are already stricken with fraud, and now the administration wants to introduce a new program. This new program is based on self-attestation. Whatever happened to ''trust, but verify''?

HUMAN RIGHTS FAILURES OF THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. WOLF. When President Obama was awarded the Nobel Prize for his commitment to human rights, the decision was based on a misplaced hope rather than actual record. In fact, the Obama administration has been silent or inept in country after country when it comes to advocating for the oppressed, the marginalized, and the vulnerable.

On Obama's watch, more than 118 Tibetans have set themselves aflame, and yet human rights was barely mentioned at the recent U.S.-China summit. On Obama's watch, genocide persists in Darfur, and thousands are starving in the Nuba Mountains, and yet the Sudan special envoy position has been vacant for nearly 4 months. On Obama's watch, Christians, including Egypt's ancient Coptic Christian community, have experienced escalating persecution throughout the Middle East, and yet religious freedom is relegated to the back burner in our dealings with Islamist governments.

In the days ahead, I will highlight this administration's abject failure to champion human rights and religious freedom around the world.

PRESIDENT PLAYING POLITICS WITH HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President is playing politics with the American people's health care.

According to an editorial published in The Wall Street Journal:

> The White House seems to regard laws as mere suggestions, including the laws it helped to write. On the heels of last week's 1-year suspension of the Affordable Care Act's employer mandate to offer insurance to workers, the administration is now waiving a new batch of its own ObamaCare prescriptions. These disclosures arrived inside a 606-page catchall final rule that the Health and Human Services Department published on Friday, July 5—a classic Friday news dump, with extra credit for the holiday weekend. HHS now says it will no longer attempt to verify individual eligibility for insurance subsidies and instead will rely on self-reporting, with minimal efforts to verify if the information consumers provide is accurate.

House Republicans have warned for years of the failure of ObamaCare—that it is too unworkable, too overreaching, and too destructive for American families. House Republicans have voted 37 times to repeal or to defund ObamaCare. The American people deserve a health care system based on the doctor-patient relationship, not on one mandated by a government.

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

EFFECTS OF SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the effects of sequestration on the Department of Defense employees and their families.

Starting this week, 650,000-or-so Department of Defense employees across the country will go a day a week without pay for 11 weeks. I am appalled that the previous Congress would authorize such a measure. Here is what these furloughs mean for Texas families and our State as a whole:

Approximately 45,000 Department of Defense civilian employees in Texas will be furloughed. The cuts will specifically hurt families in the 23rd Congressional District who work at Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Bliss in El Paso, and Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio. Today, in fact, the El Paso Times reported that furloughs will affect 11,000 civilian employees at Fort Bliss and at Beaumont Army Medical Center.

One day a week for 11 weeks, that results in $3,300 in lost wages per employee; and it means that, on average, most of these workers will effectively receive a 20 percent salary cut each pay period for the rest of the fiscal year. Do the math, and that's nearly $149 million lost in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, with every passing day, thousands of jobs are at risk. We have to put politics aside and work through the issue of sequestration.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION BACKLOG

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, last week, our Nation celebrated 237 years of independence.

It is the dedication and sacrifice of the members of our armed services that allows us to celebrate this each year. Yet it is troubling that our servicemembers are struggling to utilize the job retraining and placement programs that they deserve.

After returning home, a veteran seeking health and education benefits runs into over 600 forms that he or she must fill out from over 18 Federal agencies. This is not only burdensome for them, but it has created an enormous backlog at the Department of Veterans Affairs. As of March, the agency had roughly 70 percent of its claims pending over 125 days.

House Republicans have passed several bills this year to improve veterans' work programs and to decrease the VA backlog through funding for technological improvements like digital scanning and paperless claims processing. This is a start, but we need to do more.

Our troops put their lives on the line for our country. We must do whatever we can to help veterans obtain the benefits they have so honorably earned.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT DIRECTOR, THE HONORABLE DAVID SCOTT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Chandra Harris, District Director, the Honorable DAVID SCOTT, Member of Congress:

JUNE 27, 2013.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court of Clayton County, Georgia, requiring that I appear to testify in that court at the trial of a particular civil case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined under Rule VIII that the subpoena (i) is not ''a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court,'' (ii) seeks information that is not ''material and relevant,'' and/or (iii) is not ''consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.'' Accordingly, I intend to move to quash the subpoena.

Sincerely,

CHANDRA HARRIS,
District Director for the Hon. David Scott.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore Thornberry on Friday, June 28, 2013:

H.R. 1151, to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the triennial International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly, and for other purposes;

H.R. 324, to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II;

H.R. 2383, to designate the new Interstate Route 70 bridge over the Mississippi River connecting St. Louis, Missouri, and southwestern Illinois as the ''Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge''.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5:30 today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1730

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

FINANCIAL COMPETITIVE ACT OF 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1341) to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to conduct a study of the likely effects of the differences between the United States and other jurisdictions in implementing the derivatives credit valuation adjustment capital requirement, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1341

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Financial Competitive Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. STUDY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BASEL III CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO DERIVATIVES EXPOSURES.

(a) STUDY.—The Financial Stability Oversight Council shall conduct a study of the likely effects that differences between the United States and other jurisdictions in implementing the derivatives credit valuation adjustment (in this section referred to as ''CVA'') capital requirement would have on—

(1) United States financial institutions that conduct derivatives transactions and participate in derivatives markets;

(2) end users of derivatives; and

(3) international derivatives markets.

(b) CONTENT.—The study required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of—

(A) the extent to which there are differences in the approaches that the United States and other jurisdictions are taking regarding implementation of the CVA capital requirement, and the nature of the differences;

(B) the impact that the differences would have on—

(i) United States financial institutions that conduct derivatives transactions and participate in derivatives markets, including their ability to serve end users of derivatives;

(ii) pricing and other costs of, and services available to, end users of derivatives in the United States and other jurisdictions; and

(iii) the competitiveness of United States financial institutions and United States derivatives markets, including the extent to which differences in the CVA capital requirement could shift derivatives business among jurisdictions; and

(C) the interaction between differing CVA capital requirements and margin rules; and

(2) recommendations regarding steps that the Congress and the Federal financial regulatory agencies that comprise the Financial Stability Oversight Council should take to—

(A) minimize any expected negative effects on United States financial institutions, derivatives markets, and end users[**and**];

(B) encourage greater international consistency in implementation of internationally agreed capital, liquidity, and other prudential standards[]; *and*

(C) ensure that the Financial Stability Oversight Council fulfills its statutory mandate to identify risks and respond to emerging threats to financial stability.

(c) REPORT.—No later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Financial Stability Oversight Council shall submit a written report containing the results of the study to the Chairman and ranking minority member of the Committees on Agriculture and Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Chairman and ranking minority member of the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 1341, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I want to thank Chairman JEB HENSARLING, Chairman FRANK LUCAS, and Chairman SCOTT GARRETT for working with both Congressman DAVID SCOTT and me to bring H.R. 1341 to the floor for consideration today.

I am pleased that we are considering H.R. 1341, the Financial Competitive Act of 2013. Mr. SCOTT and I have worked in a bipartisan manner to move this measure forward to ensure America remains competitive in the global marketplace. We need folks around the world to know America is open for opportunity, advancement, and upward mobility. In this country, we promote opportunity, not unfair regulations that punish business and kill jobs here. I introduced the Financial Competitive Act with my friend Mr. SCOTT for one reason—to ensure the law of unintended consequences does not place America at a disadvantage globally.

Our bill simply requires the Financial Stability Oversight Council to conduct a study of the impacts implementing the credit valuation adjustment capital requirement, or CVA, will have on the U.S. consumers, end users, and U.S. financial institutions. This study is in response to the recent Basel 3 Accord, which is a global regulatory standard for capital requirements for banks.

Unfortunately, European Union Basel 3 regulators decided to exempt their own European banks from complying with certain provisions of Basel 3. Specifically, European regulators have decided to exempt transactions with sovereign pension funds and corporate counterparties, which are also exempt from clearing obligations from CVA-risk-weighted assets. This means European banks will not have to put up capital like American banks.

I have some serious questions about the impact the European exemption will have on U.S. financial institutions, consumers, and the larger U.S. economy. To me, this exemption will provide a significant financial and business advantage to European banks, European customers, and European end

users at the expense of American business, banks, and end users.

Mr. SCOTT and I are not alone. Canada recently announced it will delay its CVA capital requirement for 1 year even though it implemented the rest of the Basel 3 package on schedule. Canada's decision to delay the implementation of the CVA requirement was simple. It was driven by concerns that Canadian banks would be at a competitive disadvantage because of the European CVA exemption. U.S. financial institutions and consumers share those same concerns and will be competitively disadvantaged, which will affect how these institutions serve consumers and the derivatives business as well as the commercial loan business.

Our bill will clarify the impact the CVA exemption for European financial institutions will have on the U.S. economy. The U.S. economy can't afford to wait while Europe takes valuable market share away from U.S. companies. If the U.S. doesn't act, this disadvantage could potentially cost the U.S. economy billions of dollars and lead to jobs moving overseas.

It's simple: this bill is about America versus Europe. I urge you to support me in passing the Financial Competitive Act in order to ensure the law of unintended consequences doesn't place U.S. consumers, end users, and financial institutions at a disadvantage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Just last week, the government made an important step towards repairing our financial system after the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. The Federal Reserve adopted final rules implementing Basel 3, including new capital requirements intended to bolster capital throughout the financial system. As losses mounted during the financial crisis, the woefully inadequate capital cushions at banks and others nearly brought our entire economy to a halt.

I also appreciate that the bank regulators have taken a commonsense approach, for which I had strongly advocated, related to community banks, including the treatment of residential mortgages. I applaud the banking regulators for finalizing these critical rules, which, along with the other Dodd-Frank reforms, will create the conditions for a robust and resilient financial sector.

This legislation before us today, H.R. 1341, requires the Financial Stability Oversight Council, or FSOC, to conduct a study of the potential effects of any differences between the U.S. and other jurisdictions' implementation of one aspect of the Basel 3 Accords—the credit valuation adjustment capital requirement related to derivatives transactions. The Basel signatory countries rightly agreed that banks should hold capital against the possibility that their counterparties, be they airlines or other banks, would default.

However, despite agreeing to do so under Basel 3, the European Union has made a preliminary decision to exclude the credit valuation adjustment from the calculation of European banks' capital requirements. As a result of the EU dropping this requirement, some U.S. banks think that they may be disadvantaged relative to their international counterparts.

Under the bill, the FSOC will study these and other differences between the regulators' implementation of this requirement. I agree that it is important for U.S. regulators to ensure that the way by which the CVA is calculated for domestic financial institutions includes an appropriate methodology that will not inadvertently create an unlevel playing field relative to foreign competitors. At the same time, we must be mindful not to engage in a global race to the bottom when it comes to capital requirements for our largest, most globally interconnected financial institutions. After all, the strength of the U.S. financial system is and will be based on its stability and transparency.

Importantly, during consideration of the bill, Mrs. BEATTY of Ohio added language balancing the study's scope. As a result, the FSOC study will also consider the effects that failing to implement the CVA would have on the stability of U.S. financial markets in a period of market stress as well as how the regulators are fulfilling their statutory mandate to respond to emerging threats to financial stability.

With the addition of this language, the bill's study now balances not just the implications for derivatives market participants of this specific capital charge but also the effects on our economic stability. Undercapitalized derivatives exposures were one of the major drivers of the 2008 financial crisis. Market participants should hold capital against the risk of a counterparty defaulting or entering bankruptcy.

We can certainly consider how the implementation of the CVA could best be accomplished; but, again, we cannot engage in a global race to the bottom when it comes to capital rules. It is my hope that the FSOC will use the findings from this study to urge the other global regulators to expeditiously adopt standards that are as strong as ours.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 1341, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1341, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

AUDIT INTEGRITY AND JOB PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1564) to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to prohibit the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from requiring public companies to use specific auditors or require the use of different auditors on a rotating basis, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1564

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Audit Integrity and Job Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY RELATING TO AUDITORS.

Section 103 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7213) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The Board shall have no authority under this title to require that audits conducted for a particular issuer in accordance with the standards set forth under this section be conducted by specific registered public accounting firms, or that such audits be conducted for an issuer by different registered public accounting firms on a rotating basis.''.

SEC. 3. STUDY OF MANDATORY ROTATION OF REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRMS.

(a) STUDY AND REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall update its November 2003 report entitled ''Study on the Potential Effects of Mandatory Audit Firm Rotation'', and review the potential effects, including the costs and benefits, of requiring the mandatory rotation of registered public accounting firms. In addition, the update shall include a study of—

(1) whether mandatory rotation of registered public accounting firms would mitigate against potential conflicts of interest between registered public accounting firms and issuers;

(2) whether mandatory rotation of registered public accounting firms would impair audit quality due to the loss of industry or company-specific knowledge gained by a registered public accounting firm through years of experience auditing the issuer; and

(3) what affect the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 has had on registered public accounting firms' independence and whether additional independence reforms are needed.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives on the results of the study and review required by this section.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''mandatory rotation'' refers to the imposition of a limit on the period of years in which a particular registered public accounting firm may be the auditor of record for a particular issuer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 1564, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1564, the Audit Integrity and Job Protection Act, a bipartisan bill I introduced with my colleague, Representative MEEKS. I thank him for his leadership on this issue.

If enacted, this bill would eliminate the threat of mandatory audit firm rotation by prohibiting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, which is the self-regulatory organization charged with overseeing the auditors of public companies, from moving ahead with a potential rulemaking that would have serious negative consequences for American businesses, investors, and consumers.

In 2011, the PCAOB issued a concept release to impose mandatory audit firm rotation, which is a directive requiring public companies to change their independent auditors every few years.

Implementing this proposal would significantly impair the quality of public audits, reduce the supervision and oversight of audit committees, and impose significant, unnecessary costs that impede investment and harm investors and consumers. In fact, a GAO study conducted pursuant to Sarbanes-Oxley found that initial-year audit costs under mandatory audit firm rotation would increase by more than 20 percent over subsequent-year costs in order for the new auditor to acquire the necessary knowledge of the public company.

Additionally, the GAO noted concerns about negative effects on audit quality during the initial years of a new audit firm's tenure. The consequences of the costs imposed by audit firm rotation would decrease access to capital and investments in our communities that help our local businesses and get people back to work.

Beyond harming the competitive position of American public companies, I have heard from private companies in Virginia's Fifth District, including from many of our biotech firms and our banks, that mandatory audit firm rotation would create one more disincentive to go public in light of the increased costs and an already complex regulatory scheme.

Both the SEC and Congress have previously rejected mandatory audit firm rotation. Most recently, the JOBS Act explicitly banned audit firm rotation for emerging growth companies. In exerting its legislative prerogative to ensure this harmful policy was not enacted on these emerging companies, Congress took away this disincentive from companies exploring accessing the public markets.

Now Europe is considering imposing an audit firm rotation regime, in part, because it believes that the United States will move forward on the PCAOB's concept draft. Despite the overwhelming opposition to the concept release—over 90 percent of the more than 700 comments filed—the PCAOB has left this issue unresolved. To my knowledge, the concept release has not been withdrawn nor have there been any statements from the PCAOB that it will not be moving forward with a proposal. This continued uncertainty is having a detrimental effect on American businesses. The decision of changing an audit firm is best left to companies' audit committees, not regulators, who are trying to impose a one-size-fits-all approach.

□ 1745

H.R. 1564 will make clear that Congress does not believe that mandatory audit firm rotation will provide additional protections to investors or consumers and will stifle growth of job-creating small businesses while decreasing audit quality.

I would like to thank Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS of the Financial Services Committee for their support and leadership on this issue as we were able to achieve a unanimous, bipartisan vote from the committee.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting ''yes'' on H.R. 1564 and pass this good bill from the House so that we may strengthen audit quality, remove the threat of unnecessary costs, and refocus the PCAOB on its mission to protect investors and the public interest by promoting informative, accurate, and, most important, independent audit reports.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the 2008 financial crisis cost Americans more than $13 trillion, leaving many families unable to make ends meet as they lost their jobs and saw their nest eggs disappear. Five years later, as we began to pick up the pieces of the mess largely caused by deregulation, the American investing public is now much more cautious when investing its valuable savings. As a member of the Financial Services Committee, I see my job to ensure that there are appropriate rules in place that will hopefully prevent such a debacle from ever happening again.

One such initiative to improve the functionality of our markets is to improve the independence of the market's fact checkers—the public company auditors. These companies play a vital role of validating the authenticity of a company's financial statements and keep all public companies honest when reporting to investors how they have performed.

I applaud the government regulator of the auditors, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, or PCAOB, for its persistent efforts to identify structural changes in the current system that may improve auditor independence. After all, we know that auditors generally performed poorly leading up to the 2008 financial crisis, failing to warn investors of the outsized risk posed by banks' bets on the housing market.

Having said that, I understand that one such proposal floated by the PCAOB, the mandatory rotation of auditors, has raised serious concerns that will significantly increase costs for companies, as well as diminish the quality of information upon which investors base their investment decisions. For these reasons, I support H.R. 1564, which prohibits this proposal from being implemented.

It is not clear to me that requiring a public company to change auditors every so many years would contribute to auditor independence. What's more, given the time it takes an auditing firm to truly understand the business of a company, there will be at least a few years of less than ideal audits as an auditor has to learn everything they need to know about the new firm.

Additionally, the small number of major auditing firms, coupled with specialization within the auditing industry, means that requiring rotation, in many cases, will not leave companies with much choice at all. In my view, while enhancing auditor independence is a crucial goal, I do feel there may be better ways to accomplish it.

I would also note that this bill does not in any way limit the ability of a company's audit committee to rotate its auditors. Such committees, as some investors have pointed out, are best suited to select their own auditors.

Having said that, I do have concerns about tampering with the authority of a regulator when it raises an issue that we disagree with. The PCAOB asked the public for feedback on a range of proposals all targeting the concern that auditors have become too close and dependent on the companies they are supposed to examine. It's not unreasonable for the PCAOB to include this as one of a large range of issues it's examining.

To address this concern with the bill, I offered an amendment during our markup of H.R. 1564 that requires the GAO to update its previous study regarding auditor rotation. The previous GAO study, completed shortly after the passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, found that ''mandatory audit firm rotation may not be the most efficient way to strengthen auditor independence and improve auditor quality.'' However, the GAO also noted that ''several years' experience with implementation of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act's reforms is needed before the full effect

of the act's requirements can be assessed.'' The GAO needs to update this outdated study.

This amendment requires the GAO again to evaluate the potential costs and benefits of mandatory audit firm rotation, now that more than 10 years have passed since the passage of Sarbanes-Oxley. The amendment requires consideration of various factors, including whether rotation would actually mitigate against conflicts of interest between audit firms and issuers and whether audit quality could suffer due to audit firm rotation. And the study would also include an assessment of the impact of Sarbanes-Oxley on audit firm independence and whether additional reforms are needed.

Importantly, this study will inform a future Congress as to the wisdom of the statutory prohibition on auditor rotation in H.R. 1564.

With the adoption of my amendment, I and every member of the committee voted for this bill.

Let me reiterate, I am supportive of the role and mission of the PCAOB but believe that the regulator would do well to look at the benefits to investors as it examines auditor independence. Doing so will take the PCAOB away from focusing on auditor rotation and towards other areas that provide more meaningful improvements in auditing and financial reporting.

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

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, as we are prepared to close, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), who has put so much time and work into researching this whole issue about auditor rotation. He's worked very closely with Mr. HURT and helped to educate the members of the committee about the difficulties and the complications of this whole issue of auditor rotation.

Mr. MEEKS. I want to thank the gentlelady from California for all of her hard work.

I rise to support H.R. 1564, which I cointroduced with my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT). This bill will ensure we maintain strict auditing standards without imposing overly burdensome and ill-conceived rotation requirements on our public companies.

I also want to point out the hard work the gentlelady from California put in with regards to the GAO study and why it is important so that we can continue to make sure that our markets are strong and sturdy; and that amendment, as she so indicated, is what enabled us to have a unanimous agreement coming out of our committee. It was us working together across the aisle to make sure that that happened. I think it was good for our markets. It helps to remove the uncertainty that the markets certainly would have right now had we not had this removed and had this study going forward.

I think it's important for me to emphasize that this bill does not, first, weaken our auditing and accounting standards which were reinforced 10 years ago under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and that this bill does not weaken—nor do I want to weaken—or remove the regulatory powers of PCAOB, but we do want to remove the uncertainty.

This bill does not, in any circumstance, provide an opportunity for more fraudulent accounting gimmicks. In fact, I want to remind my colleagues that we have supported and we have enacted here in the United States one of the toughest pieces of legislation against accounting fraud and that our existing laws already embrace the concept of rotation by requiring the replacement of the lead auditing partner. This selective rotation ensures that the opinions and interpretations of the reviews remain unbiased and do not remain under the authority of the same individual for prolonged periods. This provision puts us ahead of most developed countries when it comes to antifraud accounting rules, and I believe that it remains the right and smart approach.

Imposing mandatory rotation of the entire auditing firm in the industry where companies often have none or, at best, one or two credible options to rotate to is simply unworkable, it is disruptive, and it imposes undue expenses on our public companies. In fact, studies conducted here in the United States show that requiring mandatory rotation would increase cost by 20 percent in the subsequent year and an additional 17 percent cost for selection process alone. In addition to cost, it is possible that it may actually force public companies to select less credible auditing firms that may not have the required expertise, or it may encourage the auditing firm to charge excessively high fees because mandatory rotation may impose the selection of the single remaining qualified auditing firm.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated before, we did not introduce this bill simply because we're against the principle of rotation; but, rather, we introduced this bill because imposing rotation at all costs, by any means, regardless of market conditions, would simply be irresponsible and detrimental.

Many of my colleagues, me included, do favor a more competitive auditing industry where companies can have more choices in selection of their auditing firms. Eventually, market conditions may evolve and we may have new auditing firms that emerge and gain the confidence of marketers and investors. As that happens, firm rotation, I believe, will naturally happen through market forces, but not through legislation. It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 1564 and to support this commonsense regulation of our auditing industry.

I thank both the chairman and the ranking member and my colleague, Mr. HURT, who cosponsored this, for bringing this piece of legislation forward.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, as I have no additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I would just simply close by saying I think this is a good bill, a bill that not only strengthens investor protection, but also reduces unnecessary costs. It reduces uncertainty in the marketplace. We need certainty in the marketplace. This helps reduce that for public companies. So it is my request that this body pass this piece of legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1564, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

FORMERLY OWNED RESOURCES FOR VETERANS TO EXPRESS THANKS FOR SERVICE ACT OF 2013

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1171) to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve veterans service organizations' access to Federal surplus personal property.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1171

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service Act of 2013'' or the ''FOR VETS Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. VETERANS ACCESS TO FEDERAL EXCESS AND SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Section 549(c)(3) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (viii), by adding ''or'' at the end; and

(B) by striking clause (x); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) for purposes of providing services to veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38), to an organization whose—

''(i) membership comprises substantially veterans; and

''(ii) representatives are recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5902 of title 38.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1800

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

Our Nation's veterans serve our country and make sacrifices for the freedom and protections we enjoy every day. I am deeply grateful for the brave and heroic service of all who defend our Nation. H.R. 1171 permits veterans service organizations to obtain surplus Federal personal property, such as electronic equipment and vehicles, to provide services to our Nation's veterans.

There are countless individuals and organizations who want to help our veterans, but sometimes the law and bureaucracy present stumbling blocks to these individuals and groups doing all they can on behalf of our veterans. We can never truly repay our Nation's veterans for the work they do, but this bill is a small and necessary step to provide essential services to those who serve.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I value and appreciate the sacrifices made by the men and women in our Armed Forces. For that reason, I am happy to rise in support of this legislation. The bill would simply amend current law to provide qualified veterans service organizations with greater access to Federal surplus property. The bill enjoys bipartisan support and is noncontroversial. In fact, in May of this year it was considered by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and passed unanimously, a rarity in our history.

In December, 2010, President Obama signed the original FOR VETS Act into law. That legislation established the eligibility of veterans service organizations to receive surplus property under the Federal surplus property program. The wording of the statute suggests that those organizations should also demonstrate they are acquiring the property for the purposes of education or public health. The narrow construction of that language really hurts veterans service organizations, who are not always equipped to administer public health or educational programs, that not being their core mission. They have thus been prevented in some cases from accessing the Federal surplus property Congress intended them to access.

This legislation simply corrects any confusion and, if you will, that error to allow veterans organizations access to Federal surplus property to benefit veterans.

Mr. Speaker, we need to do better for our veterans, and I think this bill, H.R. 1171, is a good step forward. I urge Members to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida, and I rise today in support of H.R. 1171, the FOR VETS Act of 2013.

This bipartisan legislation will allow veterans service organizations access to Federal surplus property. In December, 2010, President Obama signed the original FOR VETS Act into law. This legislation added qualified VSOs to the list of organizations eligible to receive Federal surplus property under the Federal surplus property program. However, the wording of the statute requires all organizations to demonstrate that they are acquiring the property for purposes of public health or education.

Unlike many of the other organizations on the list, most VSOs are not set up to administer a health or education program. A strict interpretation of the law by the General Services Administration has prevented these VSOs from accessing Federal surplus as Congress intended.

Our bill would simply correct the error in current law and ensure that qualified VSOs will have the access to Federal surplus that our veterans have earned. This bill has been scored by the CBO as having no significant impact on spending. In this difficult economy, veterans service organizations can use valuable service items that are considered surplus property to better serve those who have given so much to our Nation. Some of these items could be a refrigerator for everyday use at a local post or even a vehicle to be used to take disabled veterans to appointments.

Last year I spoke to a veteran in Elk Rapids, Michigan, who told me that the error in current law was preventing his AMVETS post from using Federal surplus computers for unique veteran service tasks. This bill will help him and so many others like him put Federal surplus property to work for our Nation's veterans. I am very proud to be part of this effort.

I am grateful to Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS and the members of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for the unanimous support this bill received during markup on June 25.

I also want to thank the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property, as well as the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans, for their support and assistance in getting this legislation to this point.

I urge the House to adopt this bipartisan legislation that will help veterans service organizations in every State better serve our Nation's veterans.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Before I yield back, I just want to congratulate the gentleman on his legislation. It is correcting an error, and it will make a very positive benefit for so many veterans organizations, including the ones he enumerated. I am proud to support the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers, and I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 1171.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1171, the FOR VETS Act. This straightforward piece of legislation simply amends current law to allow Veterans Service Organizations—VSOs—access to federal surplus property.

VSOs are valuable partners in providing for our veterans, and can provide critical services including transport to medical appointments and other support services. H.R. 1171 ensures that VSOs are eligible for federal surplus property that could help to carry out their mission.

Our brave men and women in uniform put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms, and we must do everything in our power to demonstrate our gratitude for their dedication and sacrifice. Our veterans deserve support, and this bill takes a step to showing them that we recognize their contributions and would like to give back.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote to help veterans by supporting H.R. 1171.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1171.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this 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 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 6 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 (Mr. WEBSTER) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2609, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–144) on the resolution (H. Res. 288) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2609) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1341, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1564, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1171, by the yeas and nays.

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

FINANCIAL COMPETITIVE 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. 1341) to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to conduct a study of the likely effects of the differences between the United States and other jurisdictions in implementing the derivatives credit valuation adjustment capital requirement, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 353, nays 24, not voting 57, as follows:

[Roll No. 305]

YEAS—353

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis (CA)
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Green, Al
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NAYS—24

Becerra
Cohen
Conyers
DeFazio
Edwards
Ellison
Farr
Grayson
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Honda
Lee (CA)
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Markey
McDermott
McGovern
Nadler
Nolan
Pingree (ME)
Schakowsky
Serrano
Slaughter

NOT VOTING—57

Barletta
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Campbell
Castro (TX)
Clarke
Costa
Cummings
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeGette
Deutch
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gosar
Graves (MO)
Gutiérrez
Higgins
Holt
Horsford
Hunter
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kirkpatrick
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
McCarthy (NY)
Meng
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Rigell
Rohrabacher
Rush
Salmon
Schock
Schwartz
Schweikert
Shimkus
Sinema
Sires
Southerland
Speier
Stutzman
Valadao
Walberg
Wasserman Schultz
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1853

Mr. NOLAN, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. KELLY of Illinois changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 305 for the Financial Competitive Act of 2013, I was unavoidably detained. I would have voted "aye."

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 305 had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Stated against:

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 305 had I been present, I would have voted "no."

AUDIT INTEGRITY AND JOB PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1564) to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to prohibit the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from requiring public companies to use specific auditors or require the use of different auditors on a rotating basis, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 321, nays 62, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 306]

YEAS—321

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Boustany
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Daines
Davis (CA)
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Green, Al
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Sanford
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—62

Bass
Becerra
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Capuano
Cartwright
Chu
Cicilline
Cohen
Conyers
Crowley
DeFazio
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Garamendi
Grayson
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Honda
Huffman
Keating
Kennedy
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Markey
Matsui
McDermott
McGovern
Nadler
Napolitano
Pascrell
Pelosi
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Serrano
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Tonko
Tsongas
Waxman
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—51

Bishop (GA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Campbell
Capps
Castro (TX)
Clarke
Costa
Culberson
Cummings
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeGette
Deutch
Franks (AZ)
Gosar
Graves (MO)
Gutiérrez
Higgins
Holt
Horsford
Hunter
Johnson, E. B.
Kirkpatrick
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, George
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Poe (TX)
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Rush
Salmon
Schock
Schweikert
Shimkus
Sinema
Sires
Speier
Stutzman
Vargas
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1901

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Mr. CICILLINE changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 305, 306 flight delays made me unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

FORMERLY OWNED RESOURCES FOR VETERANS TO EXPRESS THANKS FOR SERVICE 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. 1171) to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve veterans service organizations access to Federal surplus personal property, 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 Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 387, nays 1, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 307]

YEAS—387

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
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)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer

Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
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
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Simpson
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
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
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 (IN)

NAYS—1

Sanford

NOT VOTING—46

Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Campbell
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Clarke
Costa
Cummings
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Deutch
Duncan (TN)
Franks (AZ)
Gosar
Graves (MO)
Gutiérrez
Higgins
Holt
Horsford
Hunter
Johnson, E. B.
Kirkpatrick
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, George
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Poe (TX)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Salmon
Schock
Schweikert
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Speier
Stutzman
Walberg
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1908

Ms. CHU changed her 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, due to my attendance at the memorial service in Arizona for the Prescott Fire Department's Granite Mountain Hotshots who lost their lives in the Yarnell Fire, I will miss votes this evening, July 8, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on all three measures, H.R. 1341—Financial Competitive Act of 2013, H.R. 1564—Audit Integrity and Job Protection Act, and H.R. 11711—FOR VETS Act of 2013, under consideration this evening.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to my attendance at the memorial service in Arizona for the Prescott Fire Department's Granite Mountain Hotshots, I will miss votes this evening, July 8, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way on these suspension votes: H.R. 1341 Financial Competitive Act of 2013—I would have voted ''yes''; H.R. 1564 Audit Integrity and Job Protection Act—I would have voted ''yes''; H.R. 1171 FOR VETS Act of 2013—I would have voted ''yes.''

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF WILLIAM H. GRAY

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, thousands and thousands of Members have served in this body. For almost each of them, it was an honor to serve; but for a very small portion of those who had the honor to serve in this House, they have literally honored this institution by their service.

I rise today to reference one of them, William H. Gray, who served in the United States Congress. He was an extraordinary public servant, but this was not his only place where he served. I want to reference his leadership here in the House as a Member and then chair of the Budget Committee, rising all the way to majority whip, an accomplished lawmaker; but he also served as a senior pastor of the church where his father and grandfather had served back home in Philadelphia.

He served when he left the House, providing opportunities for hundreds of thousands of young people to go on to college as the head of the oldest nationwide scholarship fund, the UNCF.

Bill Gray served in so many different capacities, but he did it extraordinarily well. So I rise today to ask for a moment of silence in the House to honor this life of service.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania—Philadelphia, in particular.

I had the great honor of serving as vice chairman of the Democratic Caucus when Bill Gray was chairman of the Democratic Caucus, and I had the honor of succeeding Bill Gray as chairman of the Democratic Caucus when he became the whip, the Democratic whip of our caucus.

Bill Gray was a very good friend of mine. I had the honor of serving with him, saw him as chairman of the Budget Committee, and all the roles that the gentleman from Philadelphia said. I will have further things to say later in the week.

I want to thank the gentleman for rising to honor a historic American, first African American leader in our party; but much more than that, an extraordinary individual, as the gentleman from Philadelphia has pointed out.

I join in a moment of silence in honor of our friend, a great American, a great Member of this body, and a great leader in his church and, as the gentleman has pointed out, United Negro College Fund, which gave so many opportunities to so many millions of young people in this country.

I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. FATTAH. Thank you. I ask for the House to stand for a moment of silence.

□ 1915

FLOODING IN PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. In the time since this body last adjourned, storms and extreme weather have ravaged large portions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The resulting floods have devastated communities across the Fifth District of Pennsylvania, including—but quite possibly not limited to—Venango, Jefferson, Clearfield, Clinton, and Centre Counties, all of which I represent.

In the days following these events, I joined with State and local officials and others in the impacted communities to help those coping with loss to assess the damage and to begin the process of rebuilding. Though so many individuals and families are faced with loss and despair, it was truly inspiring to witness these communities come together to help fellow neighbors in need.

I take the floor today to offer my thoughts and prayers to those affected by these events, especially to those grieving over the loss of a loved one. These individuals need our support and the care of a helping hand more than ever.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN THE MEMORY OF ARLAN STANGELAND

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

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce to the House the loss of another of our former Members of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Arlan Stangeland, who served the Seventh District of Minnesota prior to me, from 1977 to 1990. He passed away last Tuesday in our district.

He lived about 20 miles south of where I live. Before he came to Congress, he was in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Arlan served on the Agriculture Committee, and he served

on the Transportation Committee. He rose to senior level on both of those committees, and he did a tireless job in working for the farmers and for the rural people in the Seventh District of Minnesota. Since 1990, he had been enjoying living in the lake country of Minnesota. He loved to play bridge and loved to spend time with his family, including his sons and daughters and grandchildren.

So I wanted to let the House of Representatives know that one of their former Members had passed, and would it be appropriate for us to have another moment of silence?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The Chair would look to the gentleman from Minnesota to lead any moment of silence.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members to rise for a moment of silence.

RELAY FOR LIFE: REMEMBERING CANCER SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a cancer survivor and a true inspiration—Minnesota's own Kayla Shroeck. Later this week, I plan to attend Eden Prairie's Relay for Life where Kayla will share her story as an honorary survivor.

Kayla, who just graduated from Eden Prairie High School, was diagnosed with a Wilms' tumor when she was just 2 years old. After undergoing chemotherapy and numerous surgeries, Kayla heroically survived her struggle with cancer. Through the ups and downs, Kayla has remained resilient and has never lost hope. As she puts it, ''I choose to focus on what I can do rather than on what I can't do.'' She will now turn this focus to raising awareness and supporting cancer funding to benefit cancer patients throughout the country.

She and thousands of other cancer survivors are absolute testaments to the value and importance of cancer research and treatment. I want to commend Kayla for her courage. She is now an inspiration for all of those who are struggling with cancer.

RECOGNIZING CASTRO VALLEY PRIDE

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. This weekend in Castro Valley, in my district, we have a lot to celebrate. We will be celebrating Castro Valley Pride. I am pleased to recognize Castro Valley Pride and its organizer, Billy Bradford.

We will be celebrating the sweet sound of the wedding bells that will be ringing in our district now that our friends and loved ones in the LGBT community, after the Supreme Court ruling, will again be allowed to marry. I was thrilled to know, as many were across my State, that the Supreme Court recently allowed same-sex marriage to resume in California. Love is love, and this decision allows loving gay and lesbian couples to be treated the same as everyone else. These couples and married couples across the country will also benefit from the Supreme Court's decision to strike down DOMA. No longer will the Federal Government be able to treat all same-sex couples as second-class citizens.

But the fight is not over.

We must make sure that once you are legally married in a State, you don't lose your Federal benefits just because you move to a State that does not recognize same-sex marriage. We also have to make sure that people are not discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This includes protecting against housing and job discrimination, for example. More broadly, we want to make sure that everyone is embraced and valued for who one is. No one should suffer hate, bullying, or rejection for being gay or lesbian.

Our diversity is our strength, and we must never forget that. I look forward to celebrating it during Castro Valley Pride this weekend.

A TRIBUTE TO A COMMUNITY LEADER, A MOTHER, A GRANDMOTHER, AND A TEXAS WOMAN—BEV CARTER

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, we lost an icon back home this past Saturday—Bev Carter.

Every Thursday, Bev's paper, the Fort Bend Star, would be laying in my driveway. Usually, on page 3, Bev had a weekly column called ''Bev's Burner,'' in which she would light a fire under a public official with whom she disagreed. Occasionally, I was one of those public officials, but I enjoyed and respected Bev because we shared and still share a common bond—we both love Sugar Land; we both love Fort Bend County; and we both love the great State of Texas.

As we say in the Navy, Bravo Zulu, Bev. May you enjoy the peace you've earned.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. WAXMAN. My colleagues, on behalf of the Safe Climate Caucus, I want to commend the President for his Climate Action Plan he announced on June 25. As the President recognized, we have a moral obligation to our children and our grandchildren to protect this planet for future generations.

The history of the Clean Air Act shows that we can have both a clean environment and a strong economy. Since its adoption in 1970, the Clean Air Act has reduced air pollution by two-thirds while our economy has tripled in size. In 2010 alone, the Clean Air Act prevented over 160,000 premature deaths and millions of respiratory illnesses. The Clean Air Act has also made the U.S. a world leader in clean energy technology. In 2008, the U.S. pollution control industry generated $300 billion in revenues, $44 billion in exports, and over 1.5 million jobs.

This time will be no different. In fact, a new study shows the President's plan could create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

AMERICA AND A NEW ERA OF PROSPERITY

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we just celebrated our Nation's Independence Day. As I reflected on this holiday, I wondered if our Founding Fathers would recognize America today. When I read over the weekend that fewer than half of the American adults currently have no full-time jobs, I realized the answer is no.

How is it that fewer than half of the adults in this country don't have full-time jobs? Is it for lack of wanting? Have we lost our work ethic or entrepreneurial spirit?

Absolutely not. No.

What is standing between the American people and a new era of prosperity is a Federal Government that thinks it knows how to spend folks' money better than they do.

That's why we need to embrace the free market principles articulated in the House Republican plan: we need to reduce health care costs by repealing ObamaCare; we need to reduce energy costs by responsibly tapping into our Nation's natural oil and gas reserves; we need to stop wasteful spending and reduce Federal bureaucracy; finally, we need to protect economic freedom.

This plan will help make America the most vibrant and productive economy in the world—and that's what we need to do.

IN MEMORY OF AN AMERICAN HERO, DORIS MARIE JONES HUBBARD

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Last week, Houston lost a wonderful daughter and a great leader by the name of Doris Marie Jones Hubbard. This morning, we buried her, finally, in the Houston Veterans Cemetery.

I rise today to pay tribute to someone who truly believed in democracy,

who was an advocate for the poor and for people who did not have. She shared her talents, was a pioneer in her own right by integrating and forcing opportunity in the Democratic Party of Texas. Some would think that it's party politics. I would think simply that that is making sure that everyone has an opportunity to participate and to share in the opportunities that this country gives you to have your voice heard. More importantly, she loved her daughter, Kqisha, and she was a valiant champion in the Acres Homes community.

We will sorely miss Doris for she shared, she mentored, she gave, and she believed in America with her husband, Ernest, who served in the United States Marines. She was honored today by being buried in the Houston Veterans Cemetery alongside her beloved late spouse.

Together, I call them American heroes.

REPEALING THE EMPLOYEE MANDATE

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, in May, I came to the floor to highlight the concerns that small businesses in my State have with the looming implementation of ObamaCare. I spoke about a daycare center that had 73 employees and that had been in business for 24 years. It had been struggling mightily with the uncertainty on how to meet the employer mandate.

Last week, the administration announced that they will postpone the job-killing employer mandate until 2015. They admitted that after 3 years of bureaucratic work that the fatally flawed employer mandate is unworkable.

While the President's announcement is welcome news for small businesses in the short term, it signals just how problematic ObamaCare will be to implement. The employer mandate was forcing businesses, like the daycare center in my district, to lay off workers, to cut employee hours, and to potentially close their doors depending on their financial statuses.

Businesses don't need a temporary reprieve to ObamaCare. They need a permanent one. A recent poll found that, as a result of ObamaCare, 41 percent of businesses have put off hiring and 19 percent have reduced the number of employees in their businesses.

Pushing off one of ObamaCare's worst provisions for a year will do nothing but prolong the pain and increase the uncertainty. Instead, we should repeal and have a workable bill with patient-centered reforms that will improve the affordability, access, and quality of medical care.

□ 1930

WE SHOULD DO AWAY WITH OBAMACARE AND THE WAR ON COAL

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

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would say that tonight has been interesting. We have talked about ObamaCare and we have talked about clean air and having these things; yet what we have are two different things coming out of the administration.

On the one hand, approximately 2 weeks ago, the administration proposed large, new increases in the regulations on coal. As one of his aides said, ''The war on coal is something that we need.'' Obviously, coming from southwest Virginia and representing central Appalachia and the coalfields there, this is not a good idea.

Then, as we were about to leave town, the President came out with a new plan on ObamaCare, and that was to delay the employer mandate—not the individual mandate, but the employer mandate—because they haven't been able to make the program work.

That's not the only thing. On Friday, right after the Fourth of July, the President's folks came out with 606 pages of new regulations, and in there there was delay, delay, delay because they can't seem to make the program work.

ObamaCare was drafted poorly. How do we think these new regulations on coal are going to work? They're going to be drafted just as poorly.

Mr. Speaker, we should do away with ObamaCare, and we should do away with the regulations and the war on coal.

CELEBRATING BILL GRAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the House for setting aside this time to appropriately reflect on and to celebrate the life of service of William H. Gray—Bill Gray, as we know him—who represented my hometown of Philadelphia so very well in this Congress. But as we're going to have a number of speakers, I'll have ample opportunity to talk. So I want to move to a process in which we can acknowledge some others who want to say a few words.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FATTAH. I first ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material into the RECORD on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FATTAH. I now yield to the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus, for an opportunity to talk about Bill Gray and his service to our Nation.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for leading this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour to honor a man that was a friend to so many of us, former Congressman William H. Gray, III.

On behalf of the CBC, I send condolences to the Gray family. As you celebrate Congressman and Reverend Gray's life, know that we, too, will miss a great man. We mourn the loss of Congressman Gray and celebrate the legislator, the advocate, and the statesman, a man whose accomplishments you will hear a great deal about this evening.

But if one word defined Bill Gray's life, it is ''service.'' He served God, his Philadelphia community, our Nation, and the world with dedicated hard work, strong leadership, and a commitment to equity and justice. He broke new ground as the first African American to chair the House Budget Committee and again as the first African American majority whip in the House of Representatives.

Although I did not have the personal privilege and pleasure to serve with him, our history supports the fact that he was a brilliant negotiator, bipartisan consensus builder, and courageous policymaker.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentlelady.

Representing the city of Philadelphia was something that Bill Gray was born to do. He was just an extraordinary Member.

We have one of my colleagues who knew Congressman Gray and worked with him from her earliest days in public service, so I yield to my colleague, Congresswoman ALLYSON SCHWARTZ.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I thank my colleague for setting up this Special Order.

Bill Gray was a total guy. He would have been able to handle this; that's for sure.

I do want to start by offering my condolences to the family, to Bill Gray's religious family, his community, and actually all Philadelphians who knew him and not only respected him, but loved him and admired him for the work that he did on behalf of Philadelphia and on behalf of the Nation and on behalf of the world.

I think we've all heard a bit about his extraordinary public service both here, of course, in the House and also then when he went on to, of course, help lead the United Negro College Fund.

What I wanted to say was a little more personal. I think my colleague knows this. Congressman FATTAH knows some of this history. But when I first decided to run for elected office, I went first to City Councilwoman Marian Tasco, who was part of the northwest coalition of elected officials who

came out of the community that was Bill Gray and the people who he supported and provided inspiration to. She was interested in helping me run for the State senate, and she said, Well, ALLYSON, I'm going to help you out, but there's one really important person you're going to need to be on your side.

It's an interesting district. My district in the State senate represented northwest Philadelphia mostly and where Bill Gray lived, his house there, and much of the northwest coalition and also part of northeast Philadelphia and then eventually part of the suburbs, as well. So it is a really interesting and integrated community. It is about 40 percent African American.

I went first to see one of his chief aides. I went to see Jerry Mondesire. I'm not sure you're supposed to name names here, but it's a Special Order and we can do some of that. I went to talk with him about who I was and why I wanted to run and what I hoped to accomplish in the State senate. He thought it made some sense and gave me the opportunity to set up that meeting with Congressman Gray. I came to see him here at the Capitol actually to meet him. I think he was in the whip's office at the time, a very grand office. He was a grand man of real stature. It was a good meeting. It was actually a very good meeting, and he did agree to be supportive. We ended up working together and worked hard and won a very competitive primary. I was not the only one running in that primary who went on to win in the general election.

Congressman Gray always was supportive and encouraging, particularly when I decided to run for Congress. When I got elected to Congress, the district was very different. It didn't represent the northwest. It was a very different coalition I had to build for that. But he met with me and gave me some good advice about what to do here as a Member of Congress. He said I should serve on the Budget Committee. I'm not even sure I understood at the time that he was the chair of the Budget Committee, the first African American chair of the Budget Committee and the power he lent to that. I took his advice, and I think it was good advice. It gave me a chance to really rise here fairly quickly in Congress.

What I really want to say is that he was a man who brought great intellect, great commitment to public service, a real understanding of relationships between people and how you forge those relationships and you build on those relationships to find common ground and get things done. He did that for Philadelphia, and he did that here in Congress. He was, as I say, a spiritual leader and really made such a difference to the city.

I did get to hear him preach a couple of times; and when I went to Bright Hope to hear him preach, it was Easter morning. That's kind of a special time to be at Bright Hope, as in many churches across this country. I remember that I brought my son, who is now well-grown, and he was only about 11 or 12 at the time. I asked my son afterwards what he thought of the service and what he thought of the preacher, and my son, good Jewish boy that he is, he said, You know, Mom, it kind of makes you want to believe.

And I have to say that Bill Gray made us all want to believe not only spiritually, but believe in this country and the greatness of this country and what we could accomplish. For that, I will be always indebted and grateful to have known him, to honor his memory, and to share in the sadness at his loss and to wish his family not only condolences, but great memories of the man Bill Gray was.

Mr. FATTAH. Let me ask that we place into the RECORD a number of letters from local elected officials back home in Philadelphia: Councilwoman Marian Tasco, State Senator Vincent Hughes, State Senator Anthony Williams, City Councilwomen Blondell Reynolds Brown and Cindy Bass, and State Representative Dwight Evans.

MARIAN B. TASCO, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, CITY COUNCIL.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 113TH CONGRESS: Respectfully, I join with friends, family and my constituents to submit this letter for The Congressional Record memorializing a world-class citizen, with a keen sense of purpose, a man of God, a champion at the forefront of ending apartheid in South Africa, and a man who humbly served the least of these. Over the past 40 years, I have called The Honorable William H. Gray III many things: pastor, my candidate, a mentor, my congressman, and of greatest importance to me, my friend.

Undoubtedly, Bill Gray lived a beautiful life. Having succeeded his father as pastor of Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia in 1972, I came to know Bill Gray very well. He knew best how to engage the people he was charged to lead. And, he knew how to help individuals identify their best qualities and develop and expand upon them. I credit Bill Gray for helping me to recognize my own ability to organize. Compelled to be his campaign manager when he ran for congress, and later his director of constituent services, he was a mentor to me and others locally and nationally who sought public office. He was instrumental in my run for office and election as Philadelphia's first African American City Commissioner, and strongly supported me in my bid to become council person for the Ninth District. I am forever indebted to him and grateful for his vision.

Admired for his commitment to the city of Philadelphia, Bill Gray was a powerbroker who used his influence to provide federal resources and opportunities to often underserved communities. And though he walked amongst kings, queens and heads of nations, he was never too busy to meet with his constituents, return a phone call or help someone in need.

The passing of this gentle giant is untimely, yet I hope all that mourn him will find comfort in knowing that Bill Gray leaves behind a legacy of goodness that surely withstands the test of time.

God bless Bill Gray and God bless America!

MARIAN B. TASCO,
Ninth District Councilwoman.

DEMOCRATIC APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN, SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

July 8, 2013.

Hon. CHAKA FATTAH,
Congressman,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FATTAH: I was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Congressman William H. Gray. He was a giant in Philadelphia politics, a spiritual leader for hundreds of thousands, and a powerful force for good in Washington DC. He was also a mentor to many public officials including myself. Congressman Gray's tremendous spirit will be impossible to replace.

He was a leader in so many areas, but one of the biggest ways that Congressman Gray inspired me personally was his work against apartheid in South Africa. Congressman Gray was the sponsor of one of the first bills to prohibit loans and economic investment in that troubled country, which laid the groundwork for the eventual toppling of the regime. I started my own political activism around this issue and his work was a shining example of the good that someone can accomplish in elected office.

Congressman Gray will be missed. Now, it is the responsibility of the next generation to pick up the torch and try to follow in his footsteps. Serving from his pastorship of Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia, he had a focus that was not limited to that North Philadelphia neighborhood, but was international in scope. He always concentrated on transformational change, whether it was in his 2nd Congressional District, Washington, DC, South Africa, or the World. We have truly lost a giant.

Most people will see Congressman Gray through the lens of politics. I certainly was one of the people who benefitted from his crafting of an independent progressive political movement in Philadelphia. Without his work to create a viewpoint that elected office was essentially the next step for the civil rights movement, I along with many others, probably would not have ever thought about running for political office. I sit as Democratic Chairman of the PA Senate Appropriations Committee because he had the courage to seek and to sit as Chairman of the Budget Committee of the US Congress. His willingness to grasp for what was then an unattainable high prize, gave me the confidence to seek and accomplish the same in my place of service. For that, I will always be grateful for his vision and leadership. But he also influenced a generation of young people to become community leaders, public servants, and business leaders, and to not be limited by the traditions of their profession, but to see themselves also as transformative servant leaders, who never forgot their roots, but who always reached for the broader mission.

Congressman Gray had a unique ability to reach the common humanity that exists in all of us, in order to bring people together from varied, often times from widely diverging backgrounds. That singular talent allowed him to travel and be comfortable in almost any setting. It also allowed him to accomplish some of his greatest achievements. From his South Africa Anti-Apartheid work, to his rise to the position as the first African-American to serve as Whip in the US Congress, to his leadership of the United Negro College Fund, his ability to connect with people from the board room, the barrio, and the backwater, served him and all of us well.

Congressman Gray never thought, nor acted small. He was local in his pastorship, and his congressional district, always there to preach the word or to attend a community meeting, and to bring home the ''bacon'' to his constituents. But his transformational vision and service was big and impactful on the grandest of stages—the world. Those of us who have followed in his footsteps have

been deeply influenced by his trail blazing path. It remains our hope that we can have the same intensely deep, and wide ranging impact that he has had. It remains our job to truly make a difference in the lives of the people we serve, never settling for less either in our selves or in others. On behalf of myself, my family, the constituents of the 7th Senatorial District, and for the countless faceless people who he never knew, and for those generations yet to come whose lives he have impacted, we thank Bill, our good and faithful servant. His race has been run, and it has been run so very well.

Sincerely,

STATE SENATOR VINCENT HUGHES,
Democratic Chairman of the PA Senate Appropriations Committee.

DEMOCRATIC WHIP,
SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,
July 8, 2013.

ANDREA GRAY AND FAMILY: It was with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of the Rev. William H. Gray III, a man whose imprint on our spiritual, social, and political worlds has been unmatched in the modem era. While Bill had tansitioned to a more restful and relaxing life in recent years, his influence could still be felt. His death comes as a great loss for generations, not just in Philadelphia, but across the nation.

Do accept my family's deepest condolences.

Certainly, Bill had a springboard to the success he achieved, with solid examples and expectations presented by his father, and his father before him. But what he managed to erect during his time with us deserves lasting admiration and appreciation. From his ground-breaking post in the U.S. Congress to helming the storied Bright Hope Baptist Church to steering the venerable United Negro College Fund, he helped to cement opportunity and guided the aspirations for countless people. My father and I, as did our entire organization, held Bill in great esteem because of the selfless public service to which he dedicated much of his life.

Above all, he was a man who cherished his family, and without a doubt you will miss him the most.

Do know that if I can be of any service to you during this difficult time, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY H. WILLIAMS,
State Senator—8th District.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
CITY COUNCIL,
July 5, 2013.

TO THE FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES OF THE HONORABLE WILLIAM H. GRAY, III: I am still in a state of shock. Congressman Bill Gray really made a mark on my political career. It was Congressman Gray who first mentioned, inspired and urged me to go to my first Democratic National Convention in 1984. Because of that ''nudging'' I have been to 7 of the last 8 DNC Conventions.

I was also astonished by his gift as a Pastor, having been a longtime member of Bright Hope Baptist Church. If you had the privilege of hearing his sermons, you know that his knowledge of the Bible equaled his knowledge of the Constitution.

I join the legions of adoring admirers who will miss his footprint. He was a leader who distinguished himself as a minister, educator, Congressman and father. In all these roles, he made excellence his standard while never losing the common touch.

My heart and prayers go out to his family. We thank them for sharing him with the City of Philadelphia and the nation.

We must all remember that God gives us work to do on earth and then he calls us home.

In Service,

BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN,
Councilwoman At-Large.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
CITY COUNCIL,
July 3, 2013.

GRAY FAMILY AND BRIGHT HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH CONGREGANTS: It is with deep regret that I express to your family and friends my sincere sympathy on the passing of the beloved former U.S. Rep. William H. ''Bill'' Gray, 3rd.

Congressman Gray was a progressive leader unlike any other we have seen, or are likely to ever see again. He was a political titan, a man committed to his community, and a man of faith. Bill Gray was a leader in Philadelphia during a difficult time in its history, determined to help our city become better and stronger.

Many politicians in Philadelphia owe their careers to Bill Gray, as he was known for encouraging people to become active in politics. I join them, Congressman Gray's family, and countless others whose lives he touched in mourning this great man.

My sincere sympathy,

CINDY BASS, MEMBER,
Philadelphia City Council, 8th District.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
July 3, 2013.

DEAR GRAY FAMILY: It is with profound sorrow that I extend my condolences to you on the passing of your loved one, the Honorable William H. Gray. Honorable was not just part of his title, Honorable was the man. A staunch supporter and protector of the underdog, the disenfranchised and the unprotected, Congressman Gray's passing will long be felt by those who benefited from his tenacity.

Congressman Gray blazed trails and set precedents that those of us who follow in his stead will spend our entire careers attempting to emulate. He was a fighter, a bold strategist who understood the workings of government and used that knowledge for the betterment of those that he represented.

I can imagine that these next upcoming days and weeks will be difficult for you. However, I can only hope that the great legacy that Congressman Gray leaves behind will bring you comfort. Defending ones belief in the face of adversity, never allowing limitations to limit you, being committed to a principle and a people in spite of popular beliefs, and winning against impossible odds, is what the Honorable Congressman William H. Gray stood for and the mantle that he has left for the rest of us to take up.

Wishing you peace and blessings.

Sincerely,

DWIGHT EVANS,
203rd Legislative District.

Mr. FATTAH. I now yield to the gentleman from Georgia, SANFORD BISHOP.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him so much for having this Special Order so that we can celebrate the life of our friend and mentor, Bill Gray.

Shakespeare wrote:

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; they have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts.

So it was with Reverend-Doctor-Congressman Bill Gray. He was a son, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a preacher—Union Baptist in Montclair, New Jersey, Bright Hope in Philadelphia. He pastored my great, great aunt, Aunt Mini, for whom my mother was named. He was a businessman. He was a mentor. He was a servant. He was a legislator. You've heard budget chairman, majority whip of this House of Representatives. He was a bridge builder, particularly in education, understanding that education is an escalator to upward mobility. And he made it possible for thousands and thousands of young people to get a college education. He was a great corporate citizen.

He was my friend, a confidant. He gave many items of sage advice and counsel. He was an avid supporter in coming to Georgia to support me when I was a State legislator. He supported me when I ran for Congress and continued to support me for reelection. And, of course, he was a wonderful friend, and we developed a wonderful relationship. I will miss him greatly.

His 71 years are but a minute in eternity, but I have to just reflect and say that he did so much with his minute. The poet wrote:

I have only just a minute,
Only 60 seconds in it.
Forced upon me, can't refuse it.
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it.
But it's up to me to use it,
I must suffer if I loose it,
Give account if I abuse it.
Just a tiny little minute,
But an eternity lives in it.

We're so thankful that Bill Gray passed this way and touched all of our lives and made such a difference, because he certainly did so much for so many for so long with his minute on the stage of this life.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentleman for that recitation of God's prayer.

Now you'll hear from someone who actually served with Bill Gray, who was his colleague in more ways than one, because Bill Gray was also a member of the greatest college fraternity. He was an Alpha. I now yield to the gentleman from New York, Congressman RANGEL.

Mr. RANGEL. Let me first congratulate and thank my colleague, Congressman FATTAH, for putting together this moment. I know this is going to be one of a series of tributes that we're going to have that reminds me how we all feel as we lose a dear friend, that we could have done more, we should have done more, we could have kept in touch a lot more.

My chief of staff, Patrick Swygert, was a good friend of Pastor Bill Gray, and he got me involved in a couple of campaigns for Congress. One was not too successful and very embarrassing, and the other one, of course, brought him to the House.

Bill Gray, even though he was known throughout the world, he had a personality that once you started talking with him, his charm, his wit would allow you to believe that you had known him all of his life.

He invited me a couple of times to visit Bright Hope, and I listened to one

of his sermons. It was the first time that I felt so utterly proud of being a Member of Congress, being a Democrat, and knowing Bill Gray. Because as he took this spiritual sermon and wrapped it around, he reminded me, and should remind so many others in public service, that there was hardly anything that was in that Bible, that no matter what your religion was, that you shouldn't have some compassion for: the children that are just a miracle of life that are born; the older people that have served and are now among the most vulnerable; the sick, the disabled; those that have emotional problems; being able to get a decent education so at least you have some of the tools that are necessary to negotiate what is sometimes called an ''unfair world.''

□ 1945

And among all of the Biblical things that he was talking about, how he tied that into the educational projects that you became a leader in, Congressman FATTAH, which nobody in the country has done more for education than you have, and he spins right off with the United Negro College Fund organization, to make certain that education was such an important factor. When it came to Medicaid and Medicare, when it came to programs providing food for those people that were starving, all of this in that sermon, it made it sound like he was saying that these are the things that we've campaigned for, these are the things that we've fought for.

So I guess instead of just feeling guilty that we had not kept in touch on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis, the work that he has really started, in Philadelphia, in the United States Congress, in South Africa and throughout the world, there is so much that has not been completed. And because such a great leader has succeeded him and comes out of that same family that brought people together in Philadelphia, and you try so hard to do it right here in this House of Representatives, this work is still not completed, the mission has not been accomplished. So those of us who knew and loved him so much, if we missed saying good-bye when he was well, we can pick up where he left off and make certain that his destination is reached by as many people as he brought over the line.

Thank you so much for having this Special Order.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentleman.

It is true that Bill Gray traveled a great distance in his life—born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to his date of expiration in London—but he did so much in that period of time to make this world a better place.

I want to yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) so she can talk about the life and legacy in service, the extraordinary public service, of our former colleague, Bill Gray.

Ms. WATERS. Thank you so very much. I would like to first take a moment to thank you, Congressman CHAKA FATTAH, for putting together this moment for us to reflect on the life and legacy of Bill. I want you to know that we are so pleased that you're carrying on in his style and his tradition. Thank you so very much for this evening.

I rise today deeply saddened by the sudden passing of my friend and former colleague, Congressman Bill Gray. He was loved by everyone, and his legacy will continue to inspire all who knew him. I feel fortunate to have had the distinct honor of working with him over the years as both a colleague and a dear friend. I join the people of Philadelphia and Americans across the Nation in mourning the loss of an effective leader and passionate advocate of the public good. Bill Gray will certainly be missed.

First elected in 1978, Congressman Gray's 12 years in Congress were marked by extraordinary achievement. Not only was he was the first African American to serve as chairman of the House Budget Committee, he was also the first African American to serve as majority whip. In addition to his outstanding leadership, Congressman Gray's skill as a politician and orator raised awareness about the talent of the Congressional Black Caucus.

During his tenure, Congressman Gray also authored legislation that implemented economic sanctions against South Africa during apartheid. As our thoughts and prayers are with Nelson Mandela, we must remember and appreciate the fact that it was Congressman Gray who spearheaded Federal efforts to eradicate apartheid.

Bill Gray was a close friend both to my husband and me long before I entered Congress. At Bill's invitation, I was honored to serve as guest speaker at Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia, where Bill served as pastor until his retirement in 2007. My husband regularly played tennis with Bill in Washington, D.C., and many cities across this Nation.

Bill was a strong and influential advocate for his constituents in Philadelphia and Americans around the country. I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife, Andrea, and their three sons, William, IV, Justin, and Andrew, during this difficult time.

I would just like to share with you—when I first came to the Congress of the United States, Bill embraced me and he took me on my first codel. We went to the Middle East. Here's a picture of us in Israel. It was the first codel that I went on. I watched Bill, how he conducted himself, how he dealt with the dignitaries and the heads of states, and I've tried to model him all of these years. So I have a lot to be thankful for. We are saddened, but I am so pleased that I had the opportunity to learn from him, and I certainly admired him so very much.

Thank you very much for organizing this opportunity for us to share our thoughts about him today. Thank you, CHAKA.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentlelady.

I didn't get a chance to travel with Bill Gray as a Member because obviously he was here before I arrived, and by the time I got here, he was gone. But I do remember flying on Air Force One with President Clinton, and we flew into the heart of Africa, and we walked into a meeting with President Nelson Mandela. And in talking with the President, I explained that I represented Philadelphia. He said, Bill Gray's seat. That will resonate for all of time that Bill Gray had such an impact that this man was able to walk out of prison after 27 years and become President in part because of the leadership on this House floor to do away with constructive engagement and say, No, we need as a Nation to take the right moral position, along with Congressman Dellums and others. RANGEL was in it. It was indispensable to helping South Africa make that transition.

So I want to move from California now to another little, small, tiny State—I'm sorry, excuse me, Texas. Let me yield to the great gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank my classmate, and we certainly owe him a debt of gratitude for the respect that he is allowing us to show on the floor of the House in honor of the Honorable William H. Gray, III. I, too, want to offer my sympathy to his wife, Andrea, to Bill Gray, who we often saw with him, and he would be really at his side. Bill and Andrea and Justin and Andrew, I offer to them enormous concern for the loss of this great, great champion.

I, too, want to lift my voice and say that Bill Gray wore many hats. On behalf of the faith community in Houston, the faith community in Texas, I want the Gray family to know that my pastors recognize and respected Bill Gray. In fact, when we would see each other, and I did not, as Chaka has said, have an opportunity to serve with him, but when we would see each other, he would ask about this pastor or that pastor, and it gave me a sense of friendship but also a sense of connectedness to Bill by saying, oh, they like you, too, or they said hello as well, because Bill was so respected.

If I might say on this floor, Bill Gray was a child of God. Although we are going to say so many things about him, I think it is appropriate to say that he loved his church and his ministry. My pastors across Texas are praying for his family.

I want to cite a few things that I think are so much a part of his DNA and his legacy, to be able to be a son of a mother and father who were premier educators in the life of historically black colleges, to be able to see him carry their leadership and move it to the United Negro College Fund, which is where I first came to know him, having not served with him in his work, but I knew him earlier because he and Mickey Leland were dear friends. And you can be assured that Mickey never

left Washington up here. Whenever he would come home, he would share his stories with us, who looked up and thought these stories of grandeur, of leadership, of good fights to make things better, and we would hear about Bill Gray, his friend.

I remember Mickey leading the Congressional Black Caucus and bringing them to Houston. Bill Gray was there, and they were talking about what a challenge it was to leave Washington, but they were glad to come to then not really the fourth-largest city in the Nation, but to come down South and show what the Congressional Black Caucus represented.

So I want to say that we are grateful for the courage but also the astuteness of his success: 56 years in the United Negro College Fund, $1.6 billion, $1.5 billion, one-half of that was raised under Bill Gray. He was serious about his work.

Sometimes we don't understand, and this is, of course, for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, because my Members do, but first are to be respected. And it should be known that our colleague, Bill Gray, was the first African American to rise to the level of leadership which he did. We say the words ''majority leader,'' we say the words ''chairman of the Budget Committee,'' we say the words ''chair of the Democratic Caucus,'' but he was the first. He will forever be in the annals of history, and I think it is absolutely key that that is the case.

I want to cite the bills, as my colleague from California said, I want to call them out: H.R. 1460, the Anti-Apartheid Action Act of 1985; and the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, H.R. 4868. Those were the guys who came together—we've mentioned Ron Dellums and the whole expanse of Members at that time who stood resolved that this Nation would not diminish its democratic ideals by engaging with South Africa. And I think courageously he took a stand that we are so proud of.

He was, of course, respected in Washington and appointed by the President as an adviser and received a Medal of Honor from the Haitian President Aristide. He took leadership and he took it with a great sense of dignity.

Let me conclude my comments by indicating that Bill Gray always had a smile on his face. He never stopped working. There were many times he came to my office not as a former majority leader but for an issue that he may have had. As I know he went into many Members' offices, particularly members of the Congressional Black Caucus. It was always uplifting, but Bill Gray always had a story of encouragement. He always had a smile and a deep laugh. He was a good man, and I want to leave this floor by saying good men, good people die young. But what we will always remember is that Bill Gray walked in giant steps, not because of his height but because of his service to America, his love of God, his love of people, and his love of his family. He will be forever missed, and he will be forever remembered. God bless him. God bless his family, and God bless his service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a great American, Congressman William ''Bill'' Gray, who served more than a decade in this great body.

Today, Members of both the House and the Senate and people around this great Nation mourn the passing of a legislator, a politician, a pastor, a teacher, a public servant and most of all a larger-than-life patriot.

The United States, the State of Pennsylvania and Congress have lost a true hero in Congressman Bill Gray. My heart went out to his family, and the constituents he represented upon learning of his passing last week. Congressman Gray was a true patriot and devoted his time here on earth to serving others in his district, state, country, and around the world. His presence with us will be deeply missed, but I know that his legacy will live on for decades to come.

Congressman Bill Gray was born on August 20, 1943 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, but he spent most of his childhood in Florida, where his father served as the president of Florida Normal and Industrial College, which later became Florida A8zM University.

Congressman Gray, like his father, was a strong supporter of education and leading advocate for strengthening America's educational systems. He earned several degrees: a bachelor's degree in 1963 from Franklin and Marshall College, a Master's of Divinity in 1966 from Drew Theological Seminary, and another Master's in Church History from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1970. Additionally, he was awarded more than 65 honorary degrees from America's leading colleges and universities.

Born into a family of ministers and educators, Congressman Gray carried on his family traditions until his death. At an early age, he accepted his calling to become a preacher, and from that day, he proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus in the church, in the community, and even in the halls of Congress. His faith was unshakable and undeniable; it was evident that he lived his life based upon what he preached.

Congressman Gray was the pastor of Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia for more than 25 years, a church pastored by his father and grandfather. Under his leadership, the congregation grew to more than 5,000 plus members, and the church served tens of thousands citizens in the community.

In addition to his church ministry, Congressman Gray served as a faculty member and professor of history and religion at St. Peter's College, Jersey City State College, Montclair State College, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Temple University. He spent countless hours outside of the classroom preparing students for success.

Elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1978, Congressman Gray was a persistent voice for equal rights, educational access, and opportunity for all persons, in the United States and abroad. He pushed tirelessly for more economic aid for Africa and was a leading critic of the South African apartheid.

In 1985, Congressman Gray was elected as the first African American Chair of the House Budget Committee where he introduced H.R. 1460, the ''Anti-Apartheid Action Act of 1985'', which prohibited loans and new investment in South Africa and imposed sanctions on imports and exports with South Africa. This bill was an instrumental precursor to the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 (H.R. 4868). Congressman Gray played a leading role in shaping United States policy toward South Africa, and awakening America to the moral imperative of ending apartheid and other injustices abroad.

In 1989, Congressman Gray was elected to serve as the chairman of the Democratic Caucus and later that year was elected Majority Whip. He was the first African American to hold these positions and his success inspired a generation of African American elected officials.

In 1991, Congressman Gray resigned from Congress to become the president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund, UNCF, America's oldest and most successful black higher education assistance organization. As president, Congressman Gray led the UNCF to new fund-raising records while cutting costs and expanding programs and services. Approximately one-half of the more than $1.6 billion raised in UNCF's history was collected during Congressman Gray's tenure.

During the Clinton Administration, Congressman Gray served as President Clinton's special adviser on Haiti. He assisted President Clinton in developing and carrying out policy to restore democracy to Haiti. As a result of his commitment to Haiti, Congressman Gray and President Clinton received the Medal of Honor from Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Congressman Gray will always be, in a word, a giant—of Philadelphia, of Congress, and of our country. He was a leader and a trailblazer for the people he represented. His mission was to help people live better lives, to do the work of his Christian faith, to advance the moral evolution of humankind, to make public policy that provided education, and to bring justice and joy to all human beings one decent act at a time.

Congressman Gray's strong, powerful, and influential voice will be missed. Philadelphia, the United States and the world have lost a great statesman in Congressman William ''Bill'' Gray. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Mr. FATTAH. Thank you.

All of us have expressed our condolences to the Gray family, his lovely wife and three sons, but I want the Members to take note that we have with us this evening a number of Bill Gray's former staff members who are here and they are in the gallery, and I would just ask that we appropriately acknowledge their presence.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from the great State of New York, Congressman MEEKS.

Mr. MEEKS. I want to thank the gentleman for organizing the opportunity to say thank you. First, thank you to God for sending us Bill Gray. Thank you to God for having an individual who understands who he was, where he came from, and how he got here, and never forgetting about those least than he. Bill Gray knew what his purpose

was in life. Many individuals go through this thing that we call life and never find out what our purpose is. But all you have to do is to look at the works of Bill Gray, and you know his purpose was to serve people, to serve people who needed a hand up, to serve people who sometimes are forgotten about, to serve people to make sure that their tomorrow was better than their yesterday.

When I think of Bill Gray, one of the first things that I was told when I got elected to Congress, by an individual who looked up to him, my predecessor, the Reverend Floyd H. Flake, said that Reverend Gray inspired him because, like Reverend Gray, Reverend Flake had a large congregation.

□ 2000

And he understood how he could take that skill, being a minister, and help the masses.

In fact, I can recall a statement made by Representative Gray when he was appointed, when he was elected the chair of the Budget Committee. They asked him, What do you know about budgets?

He said, Have you ever been the pastor of a Baptist church? And he showed that he did understand budgets and money, and how to deal with it, and he did it in such a masterful way.

He also understood the world, and the global world. Even the last few conversations I had with him were about the world, were about going out to countries, whether they be on the continent of Africa or right here in North America, whether it was in the Western Hemisphere, and how he could help people, all people, but especially people of African descent, so that they too can rise and see and accomplish all that they could be.

So death is always—and I send my condolences to the family—it's a sad thing. But when one has had such a stellar life, when one has made the kind of contributions, it's a celebration. It's a celebration that we need to thank God for, and we need to thank the fact that God sent him here so that he could be that bright and shining star for all to see and many to follow.

He leaves a legacy for us to follow. We will follow. We will miss him, but we thank him for his service to mankind.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentleman and also would like to thank all who have assisted the family at this time, including the United States Department of State, which assisted in dealing with some of the issues around the death of Bill Gray in another country. And I want to thank them.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

We have about 20 minutes left. The gentlelady's going to have 2 minutes, the speaker that follows her is going to have 2 minutes, and then we're going to be going down towards 1½ minutes from that point forward in order to make sure that everyone has a chance to make comments. And I will reserve the last 4 minutes for myself.

Ms. LEE of California. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding time and for leading our efforts tonight to celebrate the life of our beloved Bill Gray.

I first want to extend my condolences to his loving wife, Andrea, and his three sons.

My thoughts and prayers are with Bill's family, his extended family, friends, the Bright Hope Baptist Church family in Philadelphia and, of course, the residents of Philadelphia.

I know that tonight, Bill's friend and colleague, my predecessor and good friend, Ron Dellums, also sends his sympathy and prayers to Bill's family and friends.

When Congressman Gray was elected to Congress in 1978, I was a member of then-Congressman Ron Dellums' staff. Congressman Gray hit the ground running, became chair of the Democratic Caucus, majority whip, and chair of the Budget Committee.

As the first African American in many of his positions, he was truly a trailblazer and paved the way for many of us to follow.

As a congressional staffer, I worked closely with his staff, and thank you so much for recognizing them. I worked with almost every one of them who are here tonight, and we worked so closely on so many issues, especially education, and his efforts with Congressman Dellums to put the United States on the right side of history relating to sanctions against then-racist apartheid South Africa.

Congressman Gray treated staff with respect, and he valued their counsel and their hard work. And so I know that all of Congressman's Gray's staff, former staff, those who are here, and others, mourn his loss and send their sympathies.

In recalling so many wonderful memories of Bill, one stands out for me like no other. In 1980, Congressman Bill Gray led a congressional delegation to Sierra Leone in West Africa to participate in what was then the Africa-America Institute's conference.

I was privileged to represent my boss, Ron Dellums, on this mission, and Singleton McAllister, his staffer, was on that visit. Now, this was my first visit to the land of my ancestors, so it was exciting, and it was a moving visit for me.

On the plane were many dignitaries, including Ambassador Andrew Young.

Now, the leader of congressional delegations had input into the menus served on the plane. In Bill's typical way, he decided the delegation should have soul food on the journey to Africa. We had fried chicken, greens, sweet potatoes, macaroni and cheese, and peach cobbler.

We visited several countries on this trip, and I was amazed and so proud of Congressman Gray's command of the issues in each country and his diplomacy with African leaders.

I had the privilege to worship at the Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia and learned what a great, prophetic, and Spirit-filled preacher he was. And I also marveled at how every weekend he was in his church preaching.

I had many memorable talks with him about religion and politics. He was dedicated to his country, his church, his constituents and, most importantly, his God, and he understood very clearly the importance of the separation of church and state.

What an incredible human being he was. I have so many memories that I could share, but in the interest of time, I cannot do that tonight.

But I just want to say that when Bill Gray learned I was running for Congress in '98, he became one of my most consistent supporters and my dear, dear friend. We had many conversations on the phone, many meetings; and I'll always remember his words of encouragement and wisdom.

I will miss the Honorable Congressman Reverend Bill Gray tremendously. He touched my life in so many ways, and for that he will always have a place in my heart.

May his legacy live. May he rest in peace.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I will place in the RECORD a number of letters from local elected officials: State Senator LeAnna Washington, State Senator Stack, and a number of State legislators, including my own, Vanessa Brown, and J.P. Miranda.

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,
July 3, 2013.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: It was with sadness an shock that I received the news of the untimely passing of The Honorable William H. Gray, III.

Former Congressman Gray was a leader to African-American elected officials throughout Pennsylvania, but he was first and foremost a native son of Philadelphia. There is no elected official in the city of Philadelphia that has not been mentored or inspired by Congressman Gray. His legacy—that of serving his constituents through not only his Christian faith, but as an elected official—and his dedication to ensuring a brighter future for young African-American students through the United Negro College Fund—will not be one repeated in our lifetime.

My condolences to all those who knew, respected, and loved Philadelphia's Bill Gray. He will truly be missed on many levels.

Sincerely,

LEANNA M. WASHINGTON,
4th Senatorial District, Philadelphia & Montgomery Counties.

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,
July 3, 2013.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: I was deeply saddened by the passing of former Congressman, Rev. William H. Gray. Congressman Gray served his country, his community and his family with grace, honor and integrity. I will never forget his spirit and how he treated everyone with kindness, respect and dignity. He was a pillar in Washington and in the community. He will be sorely missed.

Reverend Gray represented the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania and rose to become Majority Whip of the House

of Representatives, the first African American to earn that post. My family has a long history in Philadelphia politics and Bill Gray was always there for Philadelphia; standing up for what is right and using his position of power for equality. As the Chairman of the Budget committee, Congressman Gray made sure Philadelphia was properly represented on all issues. He was a pioneer in the legislature, bridging the needs of many different people and constituencies on many different issues. As a minister, Rev. Gray preached about brotherhood and unity. As a father, Bill was a gentle soul whose family always came first.

The memory of William H. Gray will live on not only in written history, but in all of the lives that he touched. Whether it was a foreign dignitary or a constituent, Bill Gray was a gracious man, a caring man, and a leader. Our lives are richer for having known him.

Sincerely,

SENATOR MIKE STACK,
5th Senatorial District.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS,
July 5, 2013.

Hon. CHAKKAH FATTAH,
2301 Rayburn HOB,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FATTAH: As you are aware, our nation lost one of its greatest and most esteemed political figures last week, former Congressman William H. Gray III. The many superlatives and praises upon which is due to this statesman pales in comparison to the overall impact and influence that his life has had upon me personally, as well as upon the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus' (PLBC) membership collectively.

One of the many lessons gleaned from former Congressman Gray was that greatness is not born, but is instead nurtured, fostered and developed. It is with this particular principle that Congressman Gray inspired countless of our nation's leaders, politicos and captains of industry to aspire for greatness and success. However, most importantly, Congressman Gray was keen on emphasizing that prosperity is devoid of true meaning unless one is inclined to share that path to success with others.

Congressman Gray's life, through his words and actions, serves as a veritable testament to the unlimited possibility of what can be achieved through faith, hard work and determination, irrespective of race or ethnicity. Therefore, the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus would like to take this opportunity to formally recognize and honor his life and innumerable contributions to the African-American community, as well as to our society-at-large.

Sincerely,

VANESSA LOWERY BROWN,
Chairwoman, Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, State Representative, 190th Legislative District.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
Harrisburg, July 4, 2013.

DEAR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my humble gratitude. I cannot tell you enough on how much I appreciated having a great role model during my life time such as the late former Congressman William H. Gray III.

In every generation there is always some great person who has contributed so much to society but what distinguished Congressman Gray out from all the rest was not only did he impact our generation but he also done it during some very crucial and critical moments in history.

Congressman William H. Gray III has done many great things as a leader for me and other individuals and for the community as a whole. Growing up in northern Philadelphia it was extremely an honor to have been able to have someone that you could admire and respect as a leader and father figure.

Congressman Gray stood above all the rest for me because he has help to open the doors to many opportunities; one in particular was the supporting efforts that ended Apartheid in South Africa in addition to his huge contribution and support of education, especially towards the Negro College Fund which has given many young men and women a chance to soar into vibrant and productive leaders into society.

Again, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my condolences on behalf of the late former Congressman William H. Gray III and let it be known that on this day the 4th of July 2013, that he will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

J. P. MIRANDA,
State Legislator—197th District.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

CONDOLENCES

In the Senate,

Whereas, The Senate of Pennsylvania mourns the loss of the Honorable William Herbert Gray III, a former member of the United States House of Representatives, who passed away on July 1, 2013, at the age of seventy-one; and

Whereas, Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on August 20, 1941, Mr. Gray was a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, Drew Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary. He became the senior minister at the Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia in 1972 and represented the 2nd Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 1978 until 1991. Lauded as the first African-American to serve as Majority Whip, Mr. Gray was also the first to chair the House Budget Committee, during which time he introduced an influential anti-apartheid bill. President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Negro College Fund from 1991 until 2004, he served as a special advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Haitian Affairs in 1994 and was named to the PoliticsPA list of Pennsylvania's Top Political Activists. A cofounder of Gray Loeffler LLC, Mr. Gray served as a Director of Dell, J.P. Morgan Chase and Company, Rockwell International Corporation, Pfizer, Visteon Corporation and Prudential Financial, Inc. He retired from the Bright Hope Baptist Church in 2007; and

Whereas, Mr. Gray represented many things to many people, among them a beloved family member, dedicated worker and avowed community steward who generously gave of his heart and time to enhance the quality of life of his family and community; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania note with great sadness the passing of the Honorable William Herbert Gray III, whose life greatly benefited all those who lived, served and worked with him; and extend heartfelt condolences to his wife, Andrea Dash Gray; three sons, William IV, Justin and Andrew; and many other family members and friends; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this document, sponsored by Senators Shirley M. Kitchen, Lawrence M. Farnese, Jr., Vincent J. Hughes, Michael J. Stack, Christine M. Tartaglione, LeAnna M. Washington and Anthony Hardy Williams, be transmitted to Andrea Dash Gray.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL,
Harrisburg, PA, July 3, 2013.

It is fitting that we honor the life and accomplishments of the late Congressman William H. Gray, III. As the first African American to chair the House Budget Committee and serve as Majority Whip in Congress, Congressman Gray was an inspiration to other politicians across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as the nation. In these roles, he used his skills as a negotiator and coalition builder to work with members on many issues of importance, including spending cuts that did not affect the most vulnerable in our nation. Throughout his life, he was a staunch supporter of strengthening our educational system; supporting black colleges and universities and, during his time as President of the United Negro College Fund, working diligently to help minority students receive a college education.

His strong faith permeated his entire life and career. Serving as a spiritual advisor to many, his combined role as pastor and public servant allowed him to preach to both his congregation and his constituents. He directed his life towards service to God and country and he demonstrated it in everything he did. Congressman Gray will be remembered for his everlasting commitment to public service and empowering people to reach new heights.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of this great man and extend my condolences to his family and friends.

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE,
Auditor General.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM H. GRAY, III

(By Ralph Nurnberger)

Former House Majority Whip William H. Gray, III, who passed away on July 1 while visiting London, was my colleague in the firm Gray Global, my tennis buddy for almost thirty years and most important, my friend.

Three weeks before his fateful trip, Bill Gray's 97 year old mother was able to meet President Barack Obama for the first time. She told him that she never thought she would live to see the day when an African American could be elected President.

President Obama responded by telling her how much he respected and admired her son. In this, he is not alone.

The key to understanding the life of this extraordinary man was his sense of mission, essentially a commitment to helping others and making the world a better and more peaceful place.

After graduating from Franklin and Marshall University and earning Master of Divinity degrees at Drew University Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary, Bill became a minister at Union Baptist Church in Montclaire, New Jersey. While pastoring at Union, Bill was also a professor of religion and history at St. Peter's College. He later taught at Jersey City State College, Montclair State, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Temple University.

Bill spent thirty-five years as the Pastor of Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia. He succeeded his father, who had, in turn succeeded his father as the Pastor.

Shortly after assuming this pulpit, Martin Luther King, Jr. advised Bill never to stop his work at the Church, regardless of whatever else he might do in life. When the Church grew and opened its new facility, Bill and his father; and King and his father all preached on the same Sunday. This was the only time that King and his father both preached at the same place on the same day outside of Atlanta.

Bill never forgot King's admonition and continued his leadership at the Church, going to Philadelphia to preach almost every Sunday.

Bill was first elected to Congress in 1978 and served as the Representative from the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania for thirteen years.

He was the first African American to head his Party's Caucus in the House of Representatives; the first to Chair a financial committee (Budget) in the House; and the highest ranking African American in U.S. legislative history (to date) when he became the Majority Whip. He still has the distinction of being the highest ranking Member of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to serve in the House. In 1988, his Party selected him to chair the Presidential Platform writing committee.

Bill Gray's political accomplishments have been well documented, but it is significant that he saw personal achievements mainly as a means to enable him to help others. In a 1991 interview with the New York Times, Gray stated that ''My concept of power is different from other people's. I come from a background of ministry and education in which power is the ability to impact on people's lives.''

Although he was fiercely partisan, Gray was able to work with enough Republicans to secure passage of a budget prepared by his committee; one which contained funding for numerous social and educational programs.

Gray's finest moment in Congress came when he joined with former Representatives Steve Solarz (D-NY) and Howard Wolpe (D-MI) to draft a bill imposing sanctions on the apartheid regime in South Africa. Gray was able to use an even tougher sanctions bill introduced by Representative Ron Dellums (D-CA) as leverage in negotiations with Senate conferees, which resulted in both chambers accepting the Gray-Solarz-Wolpe bill.

President Ronald Reagan vetoed this bill and gave a nationally televised address to explain his actions. Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-MA) then asked Gray to deliver the nationally televised response to the President's veto message. Congress subsequently overrode the veto, marking the first time that any of Reagan's foreign policy vetoes had not been sustained.

The impact of this legislation was immediately felt in South Africa, where the pro-apartheid government soon collapsed and Nelson Mandela was freed from prison. When Mandela later spoke to a joint session of Congress, Bill Gray accompanied him to the podium. Mandela subsequently spoke to Gray's congregation at Bright Hope Baptist Church. Appropriately, Gray was part of the official United States Delegation to attend Mandela's inauguration as President of South Africa in 1994.

He was aware that many Jews played significant roles in the Civil Rights movement and thus did all he could to improve Black-Jewish relations. Together with George Ross, in 1985 Gray founded ''Operation Understanding'' an organization designed to bring young Jewish and African Americans together to promote respect, understanding and cooperation while working to eradicate racism, anti-Semitism and all forms of discrimination.

At the height of his political career, in the late 1980's and early 90's, there was speculation that Gray would eventually become Speaker of the House. Others encouraged him to run for Governor or Senator from Pennsylvania. There was even talk that he might become the first serious African American Presidential candidate.

Gray surprised everyone when he announced that he would leave Congress—and politics—in 1991, in mid-term, to become the President and CEO of the United Negro College Fund.

He explained that: ''I can do more to help more people, than I can even if I became Speaker.'' Between 1991 and 2004, Gray raised over $2.6 billion in new funds for UNCF. Thus, there are thousands of young people who would never have had the opportunity to go to college if it were not for his efforts and the quality of education offered at historically Black Colleges and Universities has dramatically improved.

President Bill Clinton appointed Gray in 1994 to be Special Advisor to the President on Haiti. Gray was able to help promote stability, reduce the number of potential casualties and restore the democratically elected government.

Gray served on a number of major corporate boards, including Dell, Pfizer, Prudential Financial and Prudential Insurance Company of America, and JPMorgan Chase & Co. John Strangfeld, Prudential's Chairman and CEO stated: ''Bill was a highly respected member of our board and a leader in all aspects of his life—a preacher, a legislator, a businessman and a board director.''

After retiring from UNCF, together with his son Justin, Bill Gray founded a government relations and business advocacy firm, now called Gray Global.

Gray spent the past years seeking to bring about a resolution of the conflict concerning the status of the Western Sahara region of Morocco. He supported a solution initially proposed by the Clinton administration that the Western Sahara should remain under Moroccan sovereignty but that the residents be granted autonomy over their own affairs. Gray was particularly concerned about the fate of tens of thousands of refugees who are still ''warehoused'' in camps on the Algerian side of the border by the Polisario Front. Gray worked to secure freedom for these refugees, currently living under horrible conditions in the Sahara Desert.

It is significant that Bill Gray's most recent foreign policy effort underscores his life-long commitment to assist those in need, especially people who are denied basic human rights and dignity.

Bill Gray was a decent and caring man, who spent his life surrounded by a loving family and a wide range of friends and admirers.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I thank you, Congressman FATTAH, for convening this Special Order this evening, and I thank you for doing so much for so many.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and great American, William Herbert Gray, III.

I spoke by email today, Mr. Speaker, with a family friend in Cincinnati, her name is Barbara Bond, whose deceased late husband, LaVelle, was Bill's friend. She informed me that Bill's closest of friends called him Herb, and that Herb always insisted on paying for the meal and telling his friends where to sit at the dinner table.

Mr. Speaker, I first met Bill Gray many years ago. He was a dear friend of a mutual friend, Attorney Ralph Stephens, of Raleigh, North Carolina, who was also a minister and a lawyer. Bill and Ralph's relationship was very deep. When Ralph passed away some years ago, Bill came to Raleigh, consoled the family, and delivered the eulogy.

In fact, when Ralph's older brother, Dr. Claude Stephens, of Fayetteville, passed away, Bill chartered a flight from Washington to Fayetteville and then flew back to Washington. He was that type of human being, compassionate and caring for his friends.

On Monday of last week, June 24, Bill Gray telephoned me to say that he wanted me to meet the former Ambassador to Morocco. I agreed, and we met at noon the following day in the Members' dining room here in the Capitol for a delightful 1-hour meeting.

During the meeting, Bill reminisced about his days here in the House of Representatives and talked about his work as majority whip. He reminded me, Mr. FATTAH, that he'd never lost a vote during his tenure. But he went on to talk about how Democrats and Republicans worked together on the big issues of that day and solved problems. And he mused about how that approach to governance would be so valuable today.

Bill also reminded me that when I was first elected in 2004, he and Andrea invited me to their Virginia home to meet CEO Michael Dell of Dell, Incorporated.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as we departed from the lunch last week, Bill gave me a big hug and said something that men generally don't say to other men. He said to me, Butter, I love you, man, and we walked away.

Well, Bill Gray, we love you and will celebrate your life and your work.

To Andrea and the entire Gray family, I extend to you my warmest condolences as you reflect on the life and work of your loved one. May God bless each of you.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentleman.

Bill Gray, for myself and my wife, for my parents, for tens of thousands of Philadelphians, was just a wonderful human being who did so much to help so many.

And I think it is appropriate that the Democratic leader has come to the floor to address us on the occasion of recognizing the service of someone whom she served with, and they were great friends. And so I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman from Philadelphia for yielding and for giving us this opportunity to sing the praises of a great man, Chairman Bill Gray, Democratic Whip Bill Gray.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege just a few weeks ago of receiving a call from Bill Gray. And I said, oh, it was just out of the blue, wanting to know how my family was doing, challenging my husband to tennis, as always, telling him is he ready to get beaten by me, and this or that.

He said, I just want to know how things are. And he asked me how things were going here, just a call of friendship. And it was just so remarkable to me that about 2 weeks later we had the word.

He told me he was going to Wimbledon, he was taking his sons to

Wimbledon. He was going to go. He loved tennis.

And then when we got the word, it was just so strange, and I felt that God had really truly blessed me because I had that opportunity to speak with him, just out of the blue and within a matter of weeks before his passing.

I did have the privilege of serving with him. As I look around and see all these much younger Members, maybe they didn't all serve with him, but they knew of his great leadership for our country.

Anybody who did serve with him, or knew of the leadership of Bill Gray, knew that he was, in a word, a giant, a giant of Philadelphia, a giant of the Congress, a giant of our country. He was a leader and a trailblazer, a proud Representative of the people of Philadelphia. He just loved his district, a man who left his mark on the history of his city.

His time in Congress was an extension of his family business, public service, serving the community, acting on the values of his faith, giving back to his neighbors and the less fortunate.

Others have spoken about how he made this choice. This is a man who could have done anything in life. He had the talent. He had the stamina. He had the energy, the values and the rest. He was a success in anything he strove to do, but he chose the path that his family had laid out for him, ministering to the needs of people.

In the House of Representatives, Congressman Gray will forever stand as a first. He was the first African American to serve as chair of the Budget Committee, a very big deal, the first African American to serve as the majority whip in the House.

He sounded the alarm, not only about the injustices of apartheid in South Africa, but about what America and Congress could do to end it.

He broadened the reach of his public service beyond Congress, helping send more young people to college, as president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund, and how excited he was about that.

He did everything with gusto, whether it was serving as a Member, as a chairman, as the whip, and then to have his values be the focus of his work at the United Negro College Fund.

To serve alongside Bill Gray, I'm sure all of my colleagues will attest, was to be inspired by his passion and his commitment, by his focus on the future, and by his belief in the common good. It was an honor and privilege to know him as a colleague, a special privilege for any of us who had that privilege to call him friend.

We only hope it is a comfort to his wife, Andrea, whom he adored. I hope it is a comfort to Andrea and to William IV, to Justin, and to Andrew, that so many people mourn their loss, are praying for them at this sad time.

Well, he went doing what he enjoyed, at Wimbledon. Watching Wimbledon all weekend, all I could think of was Bill Gray being there.

So many people loved him. So many people share the grief of the Gray family. All I can say is that, knowing him over all of these years, he lived life to the fullest.

□ 2015

Though he left us too soon, what he packed into his years of life and service and leadership was something so remarkable. So that's why I thank the gentleman for recognizing Bill Gray and giving us the opportunity to do so on the floor with the admiration and affection that you have brought to this meeting this evening through all of the voices of our colleagues.

I'm sure we'll be saying more and more about Bill Gray. He wasn't into titles. He liked having the titles, but he liked the friendship of being called Bill Gray.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentlelady, and I thank her for her leadership in this House and her own extraordinary career that continues as we go forward.

I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT).

Mr. WATT. Thank you, Mr. FATTAH, for convening us here and for coordinating this.

I'd like to rise and pay tribute to the memory of Bill Gray also. Unlike our leader, I never had the pleasure of serving with Bill Gray. Maybe people will wonder why so many people have flocked to the floor to pay tribute to him. We put him in the same category that we put Shirley Chisholm, with whom I never served, or George H. White, with whom I never served, or many other people who came before us; because we stand on their shoulders and recognize that, but for the contributions that they made, we would not be here.

And I come because Bill Gray was a friend, even though I never served with him. He regularly checked in with those of us who served just to call and say hello and encourage us to stay committed to the task that we are sent here to undertake. He regularly checked in with me because he knew I also played tennis and loved tennis and that I'd been to Wimbledon before. So I guess the great thing about it is that he died in the middle of making a trip to do something and observe something that he really loved—and with a member of his family.

I want to thank Representative FATTAH for convening this Special Order, and I extend my condolences to Bill Gray's family. We'll remember him forever and ever. Amen.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentleman.

The Sunday after Bill Gray left Congress, he preached a sermon, where he said that he was chasing his mission. And his mission wasn't money. It wasn't being in Congress. It was serving people. And he was leaving the Congress to go lead this fine scholarship organization, the UNCF. He did an extraordinary thing in terms of convincing people of the likes of Bill Gates to write a billion-dollar check at one sitting. No one had ever gotten a check that large on behalf of young people in our country who seek an education. Bill Gray had the gift of being a Baptist preacher who was always optimistic.

I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota, KEITH ELLISON.

Mr. ELLISON. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, young people often say, I'm interested in politics; I'm interested in public service. Who might I look at to model myself after?

I can think of very few people who would be better than someone like Mr. William Gray, Congressman Gray, Reverend Gray. He held so many titles.

I did have the pleasure of meeting him. Of course, I never served with him, but I did get to know him, and I got to know him in a strange way. He just called me up at my office. I said, Bill Gray is calling me? I was a brand new Member. I was just happy to be here. But Bill Gray thought, Hey, you're a Member of Congress. I'm welcoming you to this institution, and I want to have a relationship with you.

I sat down with him, got to know him, and he actually spent his time and gave me the honor of his presence on many occasions. I thought to myself, Bill Gray is an excellent role model because:

One, he has a spirit of optimism. He was always, whenever I was around him, happy, smiling, upbeat, and believing it can be done;

Two, he was never too important—though he was very important—to give his time to people. No matter who those folks might be, even a freshman Congressman like I was when he called me;

Three, he's a person who had a certain sense of self-possession. He was sure that a college education for kids was right. And because he was sure that he was right about it, his enthusiasm for the subject kind of infected people around him it. It doesn't surprise me that Bill Gates would write the check, because he's talking to Bill Gray.

And so if you really want to be successful, look and study Bill Gray. None of us are going to be here forever. May we all leave the legacy of a great man like Bill Gray.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentleman.

It was said by Ben Hooks on one occasion that we're all passing one by one and we should not get caught with our work undone. So Bill got his work done.

I yield to the gentlelady from the great State of New York, YVETTE CLARKE, who was born on the best day on the calendar. We share birthdays. But she is much more beautiful and brilliant than I.

Ms. CLARKE. To my colleague, Congressman CHAKA FATTAH, it was a great day, November 21.

But let me just say this: I want to thank you for your leadership. It is very appropriate that we're here on the

House floor, a place where Mr. Gray's power was most profoundly felt, and that you, being his successor in office, would lead us through what, for many of us, is a day of celebration and commemoration of his life.

On behalf of the people of the Ninth Congressional District, I'm here to express our most profound condolences to the family of Congressman Bill Gray and, as I've said, to celebrate his life and the legacy that he's left for all of us.

Trailblazer, man of God, outstanding husband, father, preacher, skilled negotiator, consensus builder, majority whip, and servant leader, these are just a few of the words that describe the Honorable William H. Gray.

As a pioneering Member of Congress, William H. Gray III was an industrious public servant who worked diligently to provide equal rights, education, and service to the people of his district and, indeed, our Nation. He was a trailblazer for so many who have followed in his footsteps in the House of Representatives, including myself, and paved the way for many more to follow.

Congressman Gray represented the Second District of Pennsylvania from 1979 to 1991. He was the first African American to become majority whip of the House of Representatives in 1989, the third-ranking House leadership position. He also served as the first African American to serve as the chair of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives and was a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Foreign Operations.

Congressman Gray, along with many of the CBC at that time, led the effort back in the mid-1980s to end U.S. support of apartheid. When he retired from the House of Representatives, he went on to become president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund, where he led the efforts to raise more than $2.3 billion for HBCUs, which was extraordinary.

I'm sure my colleagues have recounted over and over and over all that he has done. I'm just putting an exclamation point because I think it's worth repeating that the people of this Nation need to know what an outstanding servant, Congressman, and preacher Congressman Bill Gray III was. We miss him dearly.

He was passionate about education and believed it was the greatest tool towards a brighter future. I believe my colleague, Congressman FATTAH, and he must have melded DNA—or maybe it's a Philly thing. I don't know. But certainly I know that this is the legacy that he has left for Congressman FATTAH, for all of us to follow.

Congressman Gray hails from a long lineage of preachers. Before coming to Congress, Congressman Gray served as the pastor of Bright Hope Baptist Church in north Philadelphia, where he served as pastor for 35 years. He was a real renaissance man who had been able to manage several careers throughout his lifetime. He succeeded his father, William H. Gray, Jr., who preached there for 22 years, and his grandfather, William H. Gray, Sr., who served there for 24 years. While in Congress, he returned to Philadelphia on weekends just to preach. He leaves an amazing legacy that will never be forgotten and that will be a part of our Nation's history for generations to come.

During this time of grief, I hope that his family and all of us will find solace in our memories and comfort will be bestowed upon the family and loved ones at this time of their bereavement. I will continue to keep the family and his parishioners and those who hold him dear in my prayers and hope that the Lord will continue to be with them at this time.

Mr. FATTAH. Let me thank the gentlelady.

I yield to my fraternity brother and colleague from the great Commonwealth of Virginia.

November 21 is a great day.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind the Members that the rules do not allow references to occupants of the gallery.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my Alpha brother for yielding.

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of our Alpha Phi Alpha brother, the Honorable William Herbert Gray III, on July 1, 2013. My thoughts and prayers are with Reverend Gray's family during this difficult time.

Reverend Gray was a public servant in the truest sense of the word. He found many ways to effect change in the lives of the citizens of Philadelphia and, later, citizens across the country and the world. After his father stepped down as senior pastor of Bright Hope Baptist Church, he succeeded him and served as senior pastor for more than 35 years.

Well-known as a consensus-builder in the Philadelphia community, Reverend Gray leveraged those relationships into an opportunity to represent the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania and the U.S. House of Representatives. During his tenure, he rose to the influential positions of chairman of the Budget Committee and majority whip of the House of Representatives. He was the first African American ever to assume the position of majority whip. He wielded these positions of power to advance an agenda of social justice for all Americans and social justice for those who suffered under the apartheid in South Africa.

After his departure from Congress, he found opportunities to further advocate for social equality through his service as president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund. During his tenure, he helped raise over $2.3 billion so students could continue their dream of affording and achieving a college education.

He will be missed by his former colleagues in the House of Representatives and the many people who were positively affected by his life's work. He will also be missed by his congregation at Bright Hope Baptist Church. His dedication to his congregation was always apparent, as evidenced by his continued preaching throughout his tenure in Congress and his tenure with the United Negro College Fund.

Reverend Gray was a shining example of what it means to be a public servant, and his strong, influential voice will be sorely missed.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentleman.

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There are many who are honored to serve in this House. There are few who honor the House through their service. Bill Gray honored the House through his service.

But I knew Bill Gray as a preacher from north Philadelphia. He constructed the Philadelphia Mortgage Plan, the Philadelphia Insurance Plan, the guard against red-lining neighborhoods and green-lining neighborhoods in north Philadelphia and northwest Philadelphia. I saw him deal with the challenges of bringing resources for transportation and infrastructure and job training into Philadelphia as a member of the Appropriations Committee—which no one actually normally talks about. They talk about his chairmanship of the Budget Committee, but as an appropriator, he did a great deal to move our country forward.

So as I move to close, I want to thank his family for sharing Bill Gray with the rest of the world. Not just here in the Congress, but all around the world Bill Gray worked to make a difference.

And I want to thank his church family. Because on this Saturday, when he's funeralized, there will be people flying in from all over. But the people who he married and baptized, the people who he consoled on their sick beds, to them, he was their pastor.

For those who served with him in the House, they learned a great deal from Bill Gray's service here, which is that it's not the length or the number of terms, it's what we do when we have the power to make a difference. He was truly an impact player.

As a tennis player, he had a great, aggressive net game. He played aggressively, and he always played to win. I thank the House and I thank my colleagues for taking out this time to recognize his service, his life, his legacy, and his leadership.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank my colleague, Mr. FATTAH, for leading the CBC's celebration of Congressman William H. Gray, III's life and legacy. Our nation has lost a strong community leader and devoted public servant.

Elected to the House of Representatives in 1978, Congressman Bill Gray proudly served the citizens of Pennsylvania's Second Congressional District for over ten remarkable

years. As a Member of Congress, he was a tireless advocate for the people of Philadelphia and a pioneer for a new generation of African-American elected officials.

He was a trailblazer who fought to protect the most vulnerable individuals in his community, in our country, and around the world.

During his tenure in Congress, Congressman Gray later became Chairman of the Democratic Caucus and Majority Whip for the party. With these Leadership positions, he became the highest-ranking African American ever to serve in Congress. His congressional record and service continues to inspire us all. During the four years he served as Chair of the House Budget Committee, Congressman Gray was the chief point man in budget negotiations between the Democratic Congress and the Reagan Administration. He was no stranger to reaching across the aisle to build consensus and work in a bipartisan manner.

He wielded his Budget Committee gavel for the good of the international community pressing for more economic aid for Africa and leading the critique of South African apartheid.

As a staunch supporter of education, he was a key advocate for strengthening and improving our nation's schools.

Upon his retirement from Congress, Representative Gray became president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund from 1991 to 2004, where he led the Fund to new fund-raising records while cutting costs and expanding programs and services.

Congressman Gray was truly transformative for our communities and especially for our young people.

In 1994, President Clinton appointed Congressman Gray as a special advisor to Haiti and in that role he assisted President Clinton in developing and carrying out policy to restore democracy to Haiti. Due to his service, in 1995, the Congressman received the Medal of Honor from the Haitian government.

Congressman Gray's lifelong commitment to his community, to public service, and to his family was truly admirable and inspirational. To his wife, Andrea, his three sons and his many grandchildren, know that you are in our hearts and our prayers. And, I say to you, celebrate Bill's life, because he lived a life that was full of honor and integrity. Not only did he inspire each one of us with his service, he inspired the Nation.

I am truly privileged to be able to stand here and honor Congressman Gray.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Bill Gray lived the very definition of a fulfilled life—full of family, friends, history making as a public man and above all, as a public servant. The first African American House Majority Whip, third in rank in the House, first African American chair of the House Budget Committee, Member of the House from Pennsylvania, author of the 1985 and 1986 South Africa sanction bills, a storied leader who broke fundraising records as the Chief Executive Officer of the United Negro College Fund, and pastor of Bright Hope Baptist Church for 25 years. At his premature death, Bill was co-chairman of his own consulting firm, GrayLoeffler and Corp.

However, the highlights of Bill's life of public service did not fully define the man. Bill Gray left the Congress before I was elected and many were convinced that he would become the first African American Speaker of the House, had he chosen to remain in Congress. However, you did not have to be a member of Congress to get to know Bill Gray, so wide-ranging were his contributions, activities and his friendships.

Bill was gifted with an agile mind, a magnetic personality, and a generous spirit. The shock, regret, and profound sadness Bill's loss leaves are mitigated only by the certain knowledge of a life fully, richly, and generously lived.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today we honor someone who truly embodied what it means to be a "public servant," former Congressman Bill Gray. Whether it was during his time as a professor, as a Member of Congress, or as President of the United Negro College Fund, Congressman Gray spent his entire life selflessly serving others.

He exemplified the characteristics of a true leader and was a model for all of us here in this chamber. More than anything, Congressman Gray loved Philadelphia, he loved the people he served, and every day he dedicated himself to making the lives of those less fortunate just a little bit better.

Congressman Gray's affinity for education began long before he became President of the United Negro College Fund, when he was teaching in my home State of New Jersey. As a professor of history and religion at St. Peter's College, Jersey City State College, and Montclair State College, he helped change the lives of hundreds of young men and women throughout my district.

This passion for education continued throughout his life as Congressman Gray became a leading advocate in changing the American educational system.

To Congressman Gray, adversity was a welcome challenge. He broke down racial barriers as the first African-American Majority Whip Leader and Chairman of the House Budget Committee. He also led the charge to help end apartheid.

These remarkable achievements paved the way for me and other African American leaders to follow.

Despite his incredible accomplishments in Congress, Congressman Gray never stopped serving and always believed he could do more.

Returning to his true passion—education—Congressman Gray became President of the United Negro College Fund. There, he remarkably helped raise more than half of UNFC's $1.6 billion in funds to help open the door for thousands of African-American students who merely had a dream and the drive to go to college. With Congressman Gray's help, those dreams have been turned into reality.

I am incredibly grateful for Congressman Gray's tireless years of civil service and for being a model of true leadership. My condolences and prayers go out to his family and the people of Philadelphia during this difficult time. Congressman Gray will certainly be missed, but has left a mark on this Nation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable man, a former Committee Chair, Majority Whip of this distinguished body and an outstanding American, Congressman Bill Gray.

In 1972, Congressman Gray succeeded his father to serve as the Senior Pastor of Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia, a position he held until 2007. It was through the church and his family where he first learned the benevolence of kindness and value of public service.

Congressman Gray, first elected to Congress from Pennsylvania's 22nd District in 1979, worked tirelessly to promote the civil rights of all people. His dedication to this cause extended further than the boundaries of our country and touched countless lives. In Congress, Congressman Gray was instrumental in passing legislation aimed at ending apartheid practices in South Africa.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Congressman Gray achieved many firsts. Most notably, he rose to become Chairman of the Budget Committee, a first by an African American. He also served as Majority Whip, the top three job in the House leadership and the highest position occupied by an African American elected official up to that point.

Congressman Gray was a strong advocate for educational policies, and later led the United Negro College Fund, which supports scholarship programs for African American students and more than three dozen private historically black colleges. In 1999, Congressman Gray helped to secure a $1 billion pledge from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for scholarships to be administered by the fund. This is believed to be the largest single act of philanthropy in the history of American higher education.

I had many opportunities to personally speak with Congressman Gray.

Congressman Gray was an advocate of strong family values, as he displayed in his marriage with his wife, Andrea, and three sons, William IV, Justin and Andrew.

Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon this body to acknowledge Congressman Gray's achievements and life of public service which have improved our Nation.

On behalf of the people of the 30th Congressional District of Texas and the United States Congress, I extend my heartfelt sympathy and celebrate his life of service.

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity that we have in this body to be able to come before the American people and talk about issues of the day that impact all of us. We're talking about one today, and that's really dealing more than anything with the economy and the problems that we're having with job creation. What we want to do in this economy is make sure that everyone who's in the middle class has a chance and an opportunity for a job, and for work and for employment.

It was really troubling because there was a story that came out recently that said that over half of all of the adults in the United States—over half—don't have a full-time job. That's what people need. We all know that people want to be self-supporting, they want to be able to support their families, but right now we have a real problem because too many adults don't even have a full-time job.

For a lot of Americans who are watching tonight, a full-time job isn't

even enough to be able to begin to pay for the bills, let alone put aside some money and save some money to pay for important things, like maybe college for your children, maybe just even to be able to save up and buy a car, or pay off a few bills.

People have lowered their expectations, Mr. Speaker, to a point that we haven't seen for a long, long time because people have just, frankly, gotten discouraged. They're discouraged now, and they don't know where the economy is going to lead.

In the midst of all of that, we're talking about new impediments that are coming to job creation, one of those being ObamaCare, the fact that the President's health care law is coming into effect. The law says very clearly that the law is to come into effect and that the provisions of the law are to be followed by this upcoming next year, in 2014.

Well, we saw that the President of the United States—unilaterally—effectively waved a magic wand. And as he has been wont to do lately, he is making laws and decrees, really by a press conference or by a press release or just by going to a microphone. And so no longer do the American people even know what the law is or what the law says. Because we presume when a law is passed that we're supposed to follow it—at least that's what the IRS tells us. If a law is passed, they tell us that they're supposed to enforce it. So that's the expectation that people have, that they're supposed to follow the law.

Yet the President of the United States said that he's going to put some of these provisions away so that people won't have to follow them. Well, I think our recommendation would be to the President: let's not follow any of ObamaCare; let's put it all in abeyance. Because, as we know, one of the bill's chief authors, Senator BAUCUS, has said the bill is, in effect, a ''train wreck.'' And that's what's coming down the pike.

So we know, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, that ObamaCare is the number one reason, Mr. Speaker, why employers aren't creating jobs, another reason why the middle class is suffering.

So in the middle of all that, now we're hearing another layer of burden heaped on the middle class, and it's this: now we hear from not only the President, but also from the Senate and some of our colleagues in the Senate on the Republican side, that what we need to do next is offer amnesty to millions of illegal aliens. And it isn't just a few million, Mr. Speaker. At minimum, we're looking at 11 million illegal aliens. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there are estimates that we will be allowing into this country, conservatively speaking, 33 million new illegal aliens into the United States in the next 10 years. That's more illegal aliens than we've allowed into the United States in the last 40 years.

If we allow in 33 million new illegal aliens, Mr. Speaker, when we already have 24 million Americans who are without a job—we have 24 million Americans that are unemployed right now in this country, and we're looking, through amnesty for illegal aliens, at allowing in another 33 million. Where are those 24 million Americans supposed to go, Mr. Speaker, when they have to compete not only with the current population but an additional 33 million?

Well, if there's anything that we know, it is this: it is that amnesty costs a fortune. Conservatively speaking, we're looking at $6 trillion in costs. And of that $6 trillion, nearly half of that amount is to go to pay out retirement benefits for illegal aliens—at the worst possible time, Mr. Speaker.

When all of the baby boomers are looking at having to draw down what they've spent their life paying into Social Security, when millions of baby boomers are looking at drawing down what they've paid in to Medicare, now we're looking at potentially 33 million more illegal aliens coming into the United States also competing for those benefits. But the difference is, Mr. Speaker, they haven't paid in to get those benefits out.

We have a lot to talk about tonight. Joining me tonight are some other very concerned colleagues who are also concerned about this issue of illegal aliens coming in to the United States.

We have with us tonight the gentleman from the State of Florida (Mr. YOHO), and at this time I'd like to yield to the gentleman. And we have other Members who would like to be heard on this issue this evening.

Mr. YOHO. I would like to thank the gentlelady from Minnesota, my home State, for allowing me to speak tonight on this very important topic.

This is a perfect example where Congress has failed to lead on immigration for the last 30 years, and it's unacceptable. It's not just an economic issue; it's also a national security issue when we have open borders like this. Somebody said, well, you just want to exclude everybody. No, I don't.

You know, if we look at our own homes, we lock the doors at night for a reason. The job of a mayor is to keep a city safe. The job of a Governor is to keep her State safe. The job of us in Congress is to legislate to keep our country safe.

What we have right now is a situation that the American people are fed up with. They're fed up with the fact that Congress is not leading on this. This is a moment in time where we do need to lead and set some policies out front that are not Democratic policies, they're not Republican policies; these policies need to be what's best for America. If our policies are best for America, everybody wins. If we cater to a certain group or this group or this industry or that industry, what we miss is the mark. And again, that mark is to protect what is sacred about America, and that is the opportunity that people flock to this country for. That opportunity, if we put the work behind it, we all know that becomes the American Dream. And that really is what's under attack here. So us, as legislators, we need to come out with a policy that's best for America.

I think if our Founding Fathers looked at where we are today, I think they would be outraged. Because, again, we have failed to act for the last 30 years. We have, you know, the estimate is—pick your number, 11, 12, 20, 30 million people here illegally. It's weakening our economy. It's also diluting that opportunity.

I think all of us here are in agreement that if we don't protect that opportunity, there will not be a place that is that beacon on top of the hill that other people aspire to come to. So I'm happy to be here as part of this discussion.

I think the worst thing that we can do is to pass a bill and that bill not be well thought out or not read. It would be like some of the bills in the past where I feel there was legislative malpractice when they passed bills and they said, we have to pass it to see what's in it, we have to pass it to see how it's going to work. We don't want to go there again. We want a bill that, when we pass it, our children and the children of the future can say, You know what? They did a great job. I'm glad they stood up and took their time to make a bill that was good for America and that protected that opportunity that we hold so dearly.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank the gentleman from Florida. We will continue to have this discussion back and forth as we yield to one another.

I think you've raised an excellent point, and that's really going back to 1986, when President Reagan told the country that we would have a one-time deal—one time only; this would never be extended again. Only one time will we ever have amnesty. And he assured the country that there would only be amnesty given to about 1 million illegal aliens. It ended up being 3.6 million illegal aliens. Why? Because all of a sudden people realized the door is open, we can go in, and they all flooded across the border. And rather than 1 million people being given amnesty, it was 3.6 million. Then of course this chain migration that expanded beyond that, that goes again to the issue of dealing with the rule of law.

What we were told in '86 is that we would once and for all secure that border. Let's see, 1986, 1996, 2006. Where are we now? Oh, yeah, 2013. Over 25 years later, that promise of a secure border is unfulfilled.

So I say to you, Mr. Speaker, what in the world are we doing talking about amnesty again when we haven't seen the fulfillment of the promise by President Reagan from 1986?

Well, people were so angry and belligerent about that, actually, in 2006, that

this Congress passed a bill that authorized building a fence across all 700 miles on the southern border. And they paid for it. They completely funded it. That's something when you get Congress to pay for something, but they did. Well, that was '06. What is it again, 2013? Seven years later this very body passed a bill to build a fence. Where's the fence? There used to be a commercial on TV that was ''Where's the Beef?'' We're saying: Where's the fence?

So what we're saying is: No bill. None. No bill. The middle class has had it up to here. They're fed up. They're saying, I don't want my government to lie to me anymore. I want my government to do what I sent them to do, and that is secure the border.

With that, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

Mr. FLEMING. I want to thank my friends tonight that we're all sharing this hour with, and Mrs. BACHMANN in particular for leading us.

You know, Milton Friedman, the famous economist, said that you can have open borders if you don't have a welfare state. But if you have a welfare state, you're going to have to close your borders, and you're going to have to seal them. You see, we didn't have a problem with illegal immigration until we developed a robust welfare system in this country.

Now, make no mistake about it, people who come here legally and illegally come here for opportunity. I get that. Our forefathers came here for opportunity. The problem is that so many of them who come here illegally come so ill-prepared for success. They come with lack of education; they come with lack of skill; they come with lack of ability or unwillingness to assimilate into the culture. So what happens is they can't find success. So instead of returning back home where maybe they can work within their culture, they settle for our welfare state, and as such it has grown quite a bit.

So what does that mean when it comes to the amnesty that we're talking about tonight that's contained within the Senate bill? Well, the problem with that—and Heritage Foundation has done a great study on this. Robert Rector, as we know, is the guru, is the master when it comes to understanding the whole issue of our welfare state and the reform thereof and the need for that reform. What he tells us is, that as soon as we grant amnesty to folks, there will be chain migration. There will be votes for more and more entitlement programs and more and more safety net programs.

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And so you will have millions of people who will be putting something into the system that are taking much more out, especially after the 10-year budget window, which is why it looks so good when it is actually put on paper. But we all know that what will happen is that this Nation, even though we are already $17 trillion in debt, will be much more in debt as a result of those people then getting onto Social Security and Medicare and all these other programs.

So what does that mean? We do have a problem. It all began with our inability to patrol our borders; and yet you have a giant Senate bill which is to immigration what ObamaCare is to health care—a giant, unwieldy, complicated bill that law, if it's ever passed into law, will be unenforceable.

So I've heard so many times—I've been here almost 5 years, my good friend from Minnesota—and do you know what, I've heard so many times that we've got to do something, we've got a problem so we've got to do something. So what do we do? We slam through a terrible bill, we get a terrible law, and we are worse off than we ever were.

So I say tonight, and I join with my friends to say, no, if we're going to pass something, let's pass something good. And what is that going to be? It's going to be border security, both external and internal border security. It begins there. We do nothing else until we have complete border security.

It is already in law, as the gentlelady has already expressed. We just simply ask the President to enforce the laws we already have. If we are not a Nation of laws, then we are a Nation of chaos and lawbreakers.

With that, I would just say in summation that we need to join together in this body and let's stop this terrible Senate amnesty bill. I don't know, it's about 1,200 pages, I believe. It is for immigration what ObamaCare is for health care. Let's stop these crazy, giant bills that nobody reads until they are passed. Let's begin to do it right. Let's start right now doing it right by fixing immigration by making our borders secure once again.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I want to thank Dr. FLEMING from Louisiana, because you hit on a great point. That's why we have such a credibility problem right now as the United States Congress, because we say we are going to do something and we don't.

I think the only way the American people are going to believe us on this border security is if we in the House declare that if we pass a border security bill, it is only going straight to the Senate and that's it. We are not going to send any bill to a conference committee where we know it's going to get ripped up and turned to something that doesn't even resemble border security. There will be full-blown amnesty buried somewhere in that bill. We know it.

How do we know that? Because Senator SCHUMER on the Senate side said that that's their deal breaker. And that's what President Obama said, that's a deal breaker. I think it's time that this body says that amnesty is our deal breaker—we are not doing amnesty, no way, no how, not until you secure the border. We are a one-track mind. We are going to listen to what we are hearing the people say.

I would like to have my colleagues weigh in on that too about what you've been hearing at home. What I've been hearing people say to me is, MICHELE, we don't get why in the world you don't just secure the border. What are you talking about amnesty for? Just secure the border. That's what I'm hearing. I would just like to ask very quickly—I know we've been joined by Mr. GOHMERT and we also have Mr. BROOKS here as well—I would like to ask Mr. FLEMING, is that what you've been hearing at home?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. FLEMING. Thank you, my good friend from Minnesota.

That's precisely what I'm hearing in Louisiana, north Louisiana. Again, they go, why is it so complicated, fix the border, secure the border.

It's not just about the external border. Remember, 40 percent of those here illegally are because of their visa overstays. So we've also got to have internal security too.

This doesn't count all the other issues: the crime, the criminal elements, the terrorists and others that come across the border.

Yes, my constituents are 100 percent behind us on that.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Is that what you are hearing as well from your constituents?

Mr. YOHO. Yes, ma'am. I'm hearing the same thing: close the border, secure the border. Somebody said, well, what percent would you want it secured: 70, 80, 90 percent? I said, well, if you were in an airplane and they only had 90 percent of the fuel to get from point A to point B, would you get on the plane? We want 100 percent security. I mean, secure is secure.

You brought up the rule of law. I think this is really what we need to talk about because we are a country of laws and we are supposed to follow those laws. But when you think back what happened prior to the election with President Obama—as you said, he waived his pen—now, think about that. That's one man in a country of 330 million of us that chose to change our immigration laws and how we implement them and how we enforce them. One man in a country of 330 million without a debate, without a discussion, and without a vote. That's not acceptable.

The American people are telling us that. In my district they say secure the borders, no amnesty, absolutely not. And it goes back up. What are we doing? Are we trying to protect a certain group or a certain business or are we trying to protect America? Again, our job is to protect this country. It's a national security issue.

When I hear—like you brought up, Dr. FLEMING—''comprehensive,'' when we hear that word ''comprehensive,'' I

think we all kind of run and hide because it reminds us of comprehensive health care reform, comprehensive financial reform. I think when I talk to the people in our district, and you guys will probably mimic this, I don't have anybody against immigration; they want it done properly.

So I think what we need to talk about is responsible immigration reform, but that can't happen until we secure the borders and enforce the rules on the law.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I want to thank the gentleman from Florida for saying that because I think what I fear is that if we combine these issues in so-called comprehensive reform, what's going to happen is you're going to have selective enforcement, and you're going to pick and choose. Because, again, we saw the President of the United States this week twice say that he is not going to enforce certain parts of ObamaCare. Hey, fine with me, don't enforce any of it, as far as I'm concerned. But do it through the rule of law. Do it through this body.

I ran for office, and it was tough to do, and I got here. But my voice counts, just like your voice counts, just like your voice counts, just like your voice counts, just like the Senate's voice counts. Because we are a constitutional Republic. We are not a dictatorial State. We don't have a king; we shouldn't have a tyrant. And yet we are seeing that the President decides, well, I'm going to support something today and maybe I won't.

I guess that should give us a clue, shouldn't it, that maybe if we get so-called comprehensive reform that the President may say, well, I'm not going to secure the border because I don't have the political will to secure the border, but I am going to go ahead and maybe speed up amnesty for illegal aliens. So maybe I'll just give them voting rights today because I want to, and I'm just going to go ahead and give them access to ObamaCare today because I want to, and I'm going to give them access to the 80 different means-tested welfare programs because I want to, and plus it will help me in that 2014 election. These are the kinds of things that we need to think about.

I now yield to the gentleman from Texas. I would like you to weigh in also. What are you hearing from people back home about amnesty versus border security? Did they want it in the same bill? They don't want it in the same bill? What are you hearing? And this is LOUIE GOHMERT from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate my friend from Minnesota yielding.

It is pretty overwhelming. It's not just Texas. There's a 2010 Rasmussen poll that says 68 percent of likely voters think that securing the border is more important than granting amnesty to illegals. So this is nothing new.

Yet the President himself has promised that he would secure the U.S. border with Mexico. But then again, he also made a speech in May of this year in Mexico condemning the sale of guns in the U.S. that have gone to Mexico. And of course we know his administration required that to be done.

So you can't just go by what's being said. The President promised to secure the border. It hasn't. The American people are sick of promises not being kept, and they want the border secure. I know that none of us want the border closed. We appreciate immigration as wonderful fresh water coming into this great lake, but it's going to sink the boat if it comes too fast. Anyway, I'm mixing my metaphors.

But the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act promised it would secure the border. Not only that, it said that ''it would prevent and deter the illegal entry of aliens in the United States and the violation of the terms of their entry.'' That has not happened. In 27 years that has not happened. The American people are not stupid. Lincoln pointed out ''you can fool some of the people some of the time'' or ''some of the people all of the time.'' But regardless, here it's like this administration thinks they're going to fool enough of the people enough of the time to continue to pass things that hurt America.

It is interesting, though, the immigration bill that was passed previously and then in 2006, we had another bill that was supposed to actually get enforcement done, and it didn't happen. I'm not sure if my friend from Louisiana was here at the time, but we were told there would be a fence, virtual fence, walls where needed, all this would be taken care of, and this was under the Bush administration, and there were billions of dollars appropriated for that.

And if my friends will recall, it wasn't all that long ago, the Secretary of Homeland Security just out of the blue announced, I've decided not to do the virtual fence. So we're just going to blow that off. The money had been appropriated. It's in the law. Here's what you do. And this administration just decided, we don't care it's in the law; we don't care there's money there to do it. We're not going to do it.

Mrs. BACHMANN. The Secretary of Homeland Security also testified before Congress when she was asked about whether or not the border was secure, she had testified that they didn't even have a metric to know if the border was secure. So what are we doing here? What are we doing here if the Secretary of Homeland Security doesn't even have any possible way to even measure whether the fence is secure?

Mr. GOHMERT. If the gentlelady will yield, we do have one metric from the Government Accountability Office. They have certified or indicated in their recent report that of the approximate 2,000-mile border between the U.S. and Mexico that 129 miles are under full control, to use their words; 129 miles out of 2,000 are under full control, and this administration is saying, Let's just go ahead and provide amnesty to everybody that's here and then we'll eventually secure the border.

We are going to have to keep doing this kind of amnesty bill every couple of years—or maybe we wait 10 years and do it in lumps every 10 years—unless we do what the law already requires: secure the border.

I would like to see us adopt a resolution that just says basically until the United States' southern border is secured as confirmed, not by Janet Napolitano because we know we can't trust that, but as confirmed by the Governors and the legislatures in the four southern border States, the House of Representatives shall not bring any legislation, including any conference report, regarding immigration before the House for a vote. I think that's what we ought to do.

We've got Americans upset and concerned about the IRS, upset and concerned about Benghazi, upset about this administration snooping. Of course, we have to say, though, as MATT SALMON said, the people finally have a President who will listen to them, or at least his administration listening to these things.

But anyway, there are all these other issues that need to be taken up, and I think our position ought to be very clear to the White House: you do your job and then we'll get an immigration bill.

And one other thing on the comprehensive, since the gentlelady mentioned that, since I got elected in November of 2004, it's my experience that when somebody in either the House or the Senate down here says we want a comprehensive bill on anything, that is code meaning—you break down the code—we've got a lot of really bad stuff that we want to get passed and nobody will ever vote for it if it stands up and people see what it is. So we need such a massive bill that we can hide the bad stuff in there we want passed so people won't see it until long after the bill has been passed. That's what ''comprehensive'' has come to mean.

□ 2100

Mrs. BACHMANN. And that's absolutely true, because ''comprehensive'' is code language for this is really, really bad what's in this bill. Take a look at comprehensive sex education. That's all you need to know. This is really really bad, and it's not going to help anyone.

I know we have the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS), who would also like to weigh in. He has been a marvelous voice also on this issue and has been very thoughtful and has a tremendous amount of background on this issue and has participated in a tele-townhall with numerous individuals and has a great deal of information. So I would yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS).

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Thank you. I very much appreciate this opportunity and the work that you put forth in getting us together this evening.

I want to emphasize a few points about America's immigration situation. The first point of emphasis is this: America is now and has been far and away the most generous Nation in world history when it comes to allowing foreigners to come on to our soil, when it comes to allowing foreigners to receive our most cherished right, that of citizenship.

In that vein, I would like to share with each of you some information from the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Immigration Statistics. This covers data from 2011 and going backwards.

First, with respect to legal status, the numbers of people that we as a country allow to have permanent legal status in the United States of America, in 2011, it was 1,062,000 foreigners in that 1 year that were given legal status who previously had not had previous legal permanent resident status. To put that into perspective, let's go back 50 years to 1963. It was 306,260 that were given legal permanent resident status; i.e., today, we're even more generous than we were half a century ago. Today we're giving three times as many legal permanent resident status than we did a half century ago.

Forty years ago in 1973, 398,000 foreigners were given legal permanent resident status. That's still twice today, what we're giving, than we gave 40 years ago. In 1983, it was up to 550,000, meaning that today roughly twice, again, what we are giving than we did as recently as 30 years ago. Then in 1993, it was 903,000. In 2003, it was 703,000. Again, today it's more generous than any time in American history. That's with respect to legal status of permanent residency for foreigners.

A bigger issue is how many petitions for naturalization were filed by foreigners and how many foreigners did Americans give naturalization to, i.e., our most cherished right in the United States of America.

Over the last few years, in 2011, 694,000 foreigners were naturalized in the United States of America; in 2010, 620,000 foreigners were naturalized; in 2009, 744,000 foreigners were naturalized; in 2008, a little over a million were naturalized; and in 2007, 660,000 were naturalized. Those are huge numbers. Probably more so than any nation on Earth. Not probably, but definitely more so than any nation on Earth and probably more so than all the rest of the world put together. That's how generous America has been with respect to foreigners.

If you put that into perspective, a decade ago, 462,000, meaning we're roughly giving 50 percent more now than we did just a decade ago naturalization. In 1993, 20 years ago, it was 313,000, meaning today we're giving twice as much naturalization as we gave 20 years ago. Thirty years ago in 1983, it was 178,000, meaning today there are four times more today than there were in 1983, just 30 years ago.

But it goes further, and this is important.

How many foreigners lawfully come into the United States of America? Bear in mind that we as a country have a total population of a little over 300 million people. But let's look at what's happened since 2003. The total of all admissions—again, this is according to the Department of Homeland Security—in 2003, 180 million foreigners came into the United States of America lawfully. They may be tourists coming and going, they may be students on student visas coming and going, they may have work permits or work visas, they may be part of trade delegations, but 180 million foreigners figured out how to do it the right way, the lawful way.

In 2004, 180 million again. In 2005, another 175 million foreigners came into America the right way. In 2006, another 175 million foreigners came into America the right way. In 2007, 171 million foreigners came into America lawfully. In 2008, 175 million; in 2009, 162 million; in 2010, 160 million; and in 2011, 159 million came into America lawfully.

Now, why do I emphasize these numbers? It's because the number of people whose first act on American soil is to break our laws is minuscule compared to the big picture, compared to those who know how to come into America lawfully, compared to those that America welcomes into the United States lawfully.

Those are numbers that I want to emphasize, and basically what that tells you is that there are hundreds of millions of foreigners around the world that want to come into our country and we generously and compassionately allow them into the United States of America. What we are focusing on today are the lawbreakers. And we have people in this body, people in the United States Congress, people in the White House who want to give amnesty to lawbreakers.

Let's bear in mind that there are reasons why we should not be doing that. First and foremost, we can have the choice of whomever we want out of these hundreds of millions that want to come to the United States of America and immigrate and become citizens of our great land. In that kind of perspective, what we need to be doing is choosing those who best fit America's needs. In that perspective, let's bear in mind our financial condition as a country.

We have had four consecutive trillion-dollar deficits, the worst deficits in the history of our country. We are now about to rush through the $17 trillion mark in total debt. We are not a country that can afford to stay on this path. We are not a country that can afford to allow into our Nation immigrants who are going to be tax consumers rather than tax producers.

When you have the pick of hundreds of millions of people around the world, we should be smart and we should have a smart immigration policy that brings in people who are going to be tax producers, not tax consumers. That's going to help us with our deficit situation, help us with our accumulated debt, and hopefully reduce or minimize the risk of an American tragedy, that tragedy being a debilitating insolvency and bankruptcy of our great Nation. So, in that vein, our foreign policy, our immigration policy should focus on those who are going to come here and produce more revenue than they're going to consume.

I'm for allowing immigration in the United States of America. It's a cherished privilege and it's a historical fact of our country. But smart immigration means that the people we allow into the United States of America need to bring wealth with them if that's going to help produce more in tax revenue than they're going to consume. We need to allow people into our country who are going to bring skill sets with them if it's going to empower them to produce more in tax revenue than they're going to consume. We need to allow them to bring in their intellectual capacity that's going to enable them to produce more revenue than they're going to consume.

Yes, our immigration policy is broken in part because we have laws that need to be better. Yes, our immigration policy is broken in part because we have a President of the United States who refuses to enforce the laws that are on the books.

Me, personally, I see no need whatsoever to engage in an immigration law debate until we have a White House that's going to enforce the laws that we already have on the books. In the absence of a White House, in the absence of a President that is going to enforce the laws on the books, then new immigration law is meaningless because it has no force and effect as long as we've got a President of the United States who, instead of being the chief law enforcement officer of this great land, instead of being the chief executive officer of the executive branch ends up being the person who is in charge of more lawlessness than anybody else in the United States of America because, so long as you encourage lawlessness by refusing to enforce the laws, you're giving a wink of the eye and a nod and a tacit admission that it's okay to break our laws. And as long as we have a President of the United States that refuses to enforce our laws, that refuses to come forth with a sound immigration policy that he will abide by, then it does no good for us to have this kind of immigration law debate.

□ 2110

But that having all been said, I want to emphasize a few other things. As pointed out earlier, the Senate Gang of Eight's amnesty and open borders bill legalizes or brings in 40 million foreigners over the next decade. You put

the two numbers together, 11 million who are unlawfully here, who have broken our laws, whose first step on American soil was to thumb their nose at our law enforcement and America's laws, and we have another 10 million that this Senate Gang of Eight's amnesty and open borders bill is going to admittedly bring into the United States of America—think about the impact of that on our economy. Think about the impact of 40 million job seekers on the wages of Americans who are struggling to survive.

There's a study by George Borjas, a Harvard University professor, not exactly a conservative think tank, Harvard University, that indicates that this huge influx of illegal immigration is going to have a definite and adverse effect on the wages of Americans. For example, people who have only a high school degree, illegal immigration is already impacting them to the tune of a loss of $800 per year. Now to a lot of folks who are wealthy, $800 is not much. But to a lot of people who are struggling to make ends meet, $800 is a lot of money.

With respect to the average American, not just the least among us, but the average American, the cost to the average American household is over $1,000 from these immigration policies that are in existence now from a White House who refuses to enforce our immigration laws and refuses to protect American workers from this huge supply of cheap foreign labor that is competing with struggling, hardworking American families.

Minorities are also dramatically hurt. I would highly encourage everyone to look at the reports that have come out by the Black American Leadership Alliance.

Finally, I want to focus on a passage from ''America the Beautiful.'' This really is about the rule of law. If we do not enforce our laws, we have no laws, we have anarchy, we have open borders. In that vein, many of you have heard the first stanza, but let me cover it in the second:

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!
O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul and self control
Thy liberty in law.

This has been America's heritage for decades, for centuries. The rule of law is paramount.

I can't speak for the rest of this House of Representatives, I can't speak for the United States Senate. I can't speak for the White House. But I can speak for one voice from the Alabama Fifth Congressional District, and that voice is this: I will never, never reward and ratify illegal conduct by supporting amnesty for people whose first step on American soil was to violate American law. We can do better than that. We should do better than that. And we must, must respect the rule of law or else we will descend into chaos and anarchy.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank the gentleman from Alabama. That was a tour de force. I thank you for that. I think the context you gave was wonderful, the fact that we have been extremely generous because one of the numbers you mentioned, that I had heard as well, that the United States of America allows in more foreigners into the United States than all of the countries of the world combined. We are so extremely generous. This year alone I believe the figure was a million people that we allow into the United States legally.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. For citizenship.

Mrs. BACHMANN. For citizenship.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. A remarkable number.

Mrs. BACHMANN. It's a remarkable number, and when you consider the bill that came from the Senate would double the figure for legal immigration.

We're having a hard time assimilating the number of people that we have when we have 24 million Americans who are unemployed right now, we're still allowing a million people in legally, let alone all the other numbers of people who found legal venues to be able to get in, but another number that you mentioned—you talked about the study that came out earlier from Harvard. And in that study which I read at your recommendation, what we are looking at is the average household is looking at a reduction in income and wages of $1,300 a year. That's an enormous amount of money for the average American household because just consider when Barack Obama became President of the United States, the average income per household in the United States was about $55,000 a year. That number has dropped while he's been President. It didn't go up, it has gone down. It has gone from about $55,000 a year down to close to $50,000. And now we know that about $1,300 a year has come in because of the amount of penetration of illegal aliens that are in the United States and how that's bringing down wages.

I would add to your comments as well, Mr. BROOKS, that as a Member of Congress, I can't vote for anything that's going to take away jobs from legal American citizens. That's what we're talking about when we're talking about amnesty. We're talking about taking away jobs from legal American citizens. From the middle class. Why in the world would we do that?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Let me focus on a news release by the Black American Leadership Alliance, and I encourage all Americans to Google that phrase, Black American Leadership Alliance, and look at their news releases. They focus specifically on the impact of the Senate Gang of Eight amnesty and open borders bill on the Black community, and I'm going to quote. Everything I say is a quote, but I'm not going to read the whole new release:

Given the fact that more than 13 percent of all Blacks are unemployed, nearly double that of the national average, it is our position that each Member of Congress must consider the disastrous effect that Senate bill S. 744 would have on low-skill workers of all races, while paying particular attention to the potential harm to African Americans. Credible research indicates that Black workers will suffer the greatest harm if this legislation were to be passed.

Many studies have shown that Black Americans are disproportionately harmed by mass immigration and amnesty. Most policymakers who favor the legalization of nearly 11 million aliens fail to acknowledge that decades of high immigration levels has caused unemployment to rise significantly, most particularly among Black Americans. They further fail to consider how current plans to add 33 million more legal workers within 10 years will have an enormously disastrous effect on our Nation's jobs outlook.

The National Bureau of Economic Research recently issued a report asserting that 40 percent of the decline in employment rates for low-skilled Black men in recent decades was due to immigration.

Let me repeat that:

The National Bureau of Economic Research recently issued a report asserting that 40 percent of the decline in employment rates for low-skilled Black men in recent decades was due to immigration.

Studies by Borjas and Katz, professors from Harvard University, found that immigration reduced the earnings of certain native born laborers by as much as 8 percent and other demographic groups by 2 to 4 percent. According to research conducted by University of California San Diego economics Professor Gordon H. Hanson, immigration has accounted for 40 percent of the 18 percentage point decline in Black employment rates, and current immigration proposals are sure to substantially raise these numbers.

Many Blacks compete with immigrants, particularly illegal immigrants, for low-skilled jobs due to skill level and geography, and there are simply not enough of these jobs to go around. Consider the fact that nearly 51 percent of African Americans do not have a higher education. In 2011, 24.6 percent of Blacks without a high school diploma were unemployed. Even Blacks with a high school diploma were unemployed at a rate of 15.5 percent that same year.

We are firmly convinced that such an expansion of the labor force during one of the most protracted periods of high unemployment in decades will result in suppressed wages for all Americans, but the effects on African Americans will be the most devastating.

This is the Black American Leadership Alliance. If you pull up the news release, you can see the Black leadership around the country that is saying no, that this is hurting Americans. And in particular, it is hurting us the most.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank the gentleman, and I believe the next population most hurt is actually the legal Hispanic population in the United States.

□ 2120

It's their wages that are suppressed. So if you're thinking of a Hispanic mother who's working as a hotel maid, if we have legalization, she could be competing with seven other people who are vying for her job as well. That's what we're looking at right now.

And I thank you for bringing that research to our attention. It's very important because, again, what we're looking at is hurting the job prospects of those who are the most vulnerable. And that's one thing that we've seen from the President's policies. He is hurting the people who are on the very economic edge.

I'll yield quickly to you.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. The issue before us is, who are we, as Representatives and Senators, going to represent and vote for, American workers or foreigners? It's just that simple.

Mrs. BACHMANN. That is the point.

And with that, I'll yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentlelady from Minnesota for pulling this together and for yielding.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm listening to the presentation by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS), about the rule of law and the application of the rule of law. And he concluded that segment with ''thy liberty in law.''

And I look around this Chamber and I see a doctor, a lawyer, a doctor of all species except homo sapiens in the animal kingdom, a tax lawyer, and a lawyer and a judge who wanted to legislate, left the bench and ran for Congress, and got it right, Mr. GOHMERT.

Now that might appear, Mr. Speaker, to the people that are watching in on C–SPAN that this is too hard for maybe some folks that don't fit those categories to understand. So I want to make the point that I stand here, I'm a ditch digger, and I understand this.

It is not complicated. All you have to do is understand that this is a great country, and we have a role to play here, each one of us, and it is to defend, preserve, protect and, in the case of the modern world, refurbish the pillars of American exceptionalism.

And an essential pillar of American exceptionalism is, as Mr. BROOKS articulated so well, the rule of law. You are not going to have liberty without law, the application of the law.

And as one of the members of the Judiciary Committee said to some people that wanted amnesty, as surely as you are crying out for the non-application of the law today, you'll be crying out for the full application of the law tomorrow in some other venue for some other reason.

But some of these points that we need to think about, and I just want to list them, because I think I've got an opportunity to pick up at the bottom of this hour, maybe add another 30 minutes to our discussion here, but there seems to be a belief in the Senate, and some of the Republicans in the House, Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a belief that if we do business with the President on immigration, we can write laws that he will enforce.

I remember one of the self-appointed leaders of the secret Gang of Eight, now eight minus one, said to us, you know, if we determine that we are not going to legalize the people that are here illegally, then we will never get the borders secure.

Oh, really?

Well, that means then that they've got to be talking to the President, and the President is saying, I'm not going to enforce the law unless you legalize these people here. And that's got to be the calculus that's taking place, that he's not going to enforce the law unless we legalize the people that are here.

So I look at this and I say, okay, the Gang of Eight's bill. I don't know what's all going to emerge here in the House. Nothing is a better answer.

But over there on that side, it is perpetual and retroactive amnesty. Perpetual is this, it goes on forever. You could never enforce the rule of law again if you exempt people that came into the United States illegally or those that overstayed their visa.

Here's the exception, and that is, if they committed a felony, if they committed three of the mysterious, the correct mysterious misdemeanors, that disqualifies them, then they apparently embarrass the administration enough that they would send them back to their home country.

But other than that, other those exceptions, the felony three mysterious misdemeanors, everybody that came into America before December 31, 2011, gets to stay and they get legalized. Anybody that would come after that date, or admit that they came in after that date, they don't get legalized immediately, but what they do get is the implicit promise that they will be legalized eventually.

And anybody that has been deported in the past for anything other than a felony or three mysterious misdemeanors, any of these people get an invitation in the bill that says reapply, come on back.

So it's perpetual and retroactive amnesty. That's what this bill does, Mr. Speaker, and that's one of the things that's got to be blocked.

Now, the belief that the President would give his word and keep it, it's appalling to me to think that anyone would simply accept that statement on its face. We know that the President took his oath of office, the Constitution itself, and it says to take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

And what the President has done, instead, is executed the law when he didn't like it. I mean, death penalty to a law that he doesn't like, including immigration law.

So we know here that our word is the only thing we have with each other. We give our word; we keep our word. It is the coin of the realm.

And yet they're willing to stake the destiny of the realm of the United States of America on the anticipation that the President will give and keep his word and enforce immigration laws, when he's proven that he won't even keep his word on the law that bears his name, ObamaCare. He said, no, I'm going to change it. Even though the law specifically says it shall be implemented in the first month of 2014, now he wants to add a year to that.

So I suggest, instead, what they're doing is they're betting the future of America on the President's word that he'll enforce laws that he may not like if we send them to his desk. He might sign them anyway, because he doesn't intend to enforce them.

The coin of the realm is our word. And it says on our currency, ''In God We Trust.'' Are they ready to place on our currency, ''In Obama We Trust''? Because that's what's at stake here, Mr. Speaker.

And there are a number of other topics that I would bring up. However, I notice that there is a focus here on bringing this thing around to a logical conclusion, and I believe I'll have another opportunity, so I would yield back to the gentlelady from Minnesota.

I thank all the people that came here to speak and, hopefully, we'll have another opportunity to take it up in a few minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank Mr. KING.

And we do have a little bit more time. I'm thankful to talk about this topic because this isn't just a 1-hour topic.

As a matter of fact, there's a colleague that we were with earlier today who said that we need to talk about this for a full day because, just from a process point of view, for people who are tuning in tonight on C–SPAN, Mr. Speaker, we think it's very important that we don't just go through this topic glibly, because we know this bill wasn't read in the Senate.

We were betrayed by our colleagues in the Senate on this bill. This border security isn't border security. It's a fake border security bill that came through.

We're not interested in that. The American people aren't interested in that, and we need to have a real debate.

We don't want to see, here in the House of Representatives, that the People's Representatives are beguiled or have a boondoggle put in front of them or have a Trojan horse given to us, because one thing that could happen is we could have a great-sounding bill that we're given, and then we're supposed to vote for it.

We could pass that bill. We could talk about it for maybe 10 minutes on the floor. Actually, it would be a little bit longer, not much, but talk about that bill here on the floor, pass this Trojan horse, sounds like a really good bill, pass it.

And then it could go to a conference committee, where a Senate bill goes into a conference committee, and then that bill, all of a sudden, gets a legalization thrown into it. It can come

back to this Chamber, and then that's what we're all told that we have to vote for.

And my guess is a lot of conservatives on this side would say, I'm not going to vote for this bill. It has an amnesty in it. And so then what we could see happen is that all of the liberals in this Chamber could vote for that bill because it has amnesty, and just enough Republicans could vote for that bill that it would pass, and it would go to the President's desk.

And guess what?

It would be Republicans who would be responsible for helping the President pass his number one political agenda action item early in his second term before he's even been sworn in for how long?

And it's Republicans that would help pass the amnesty bill?

May it never be.

I think that the American people right now are just wringing their hands saying, who's going to listen to me?

And I think one thing, Mr. Speaker, that at least we've been able to demonstrate is that we have Mr. KING from Iowa, we have Dr. FLEMING from Louisiana, we have the judge over there, LOUIE GOHMERT, from Texas, we have Mr. BROOKS from Alabama, we have Mr. YOHO from Florida.

We've got six people here in this Chamber who are going to say, no amnesty no how. What we're going to do is demand border security.

We're going to demand that this government finally live up to the promise that it's made to the American people, because we've got to get back to what Representative KING talked about, and what each of these Members has talked about, the rule of law, because we think it means something. In fact, we think it's everything. We think, without the rule of law, you have nothing.

And that's why I'm so grateful, Mr. Speaker, that we've had this time tonight to be able to be together and talk about this topic.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Minnesota has a couple of minutes remaining.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Oh, we do have a couple of minutes.

Well, then we're going to go full tilt.

Let me yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO). He has something on his mind, I can just tell.

□ 2130

Mr. YOHO. I appreciate the gentlelady from Minnesota yielding.

You were talking about the rule of law, and we heard about it over and over again and what the people back home think. I think the biggest thing is they're going to hold us accountable. They expect us to be accountable and they will hold us accountable, and the only way we can do that is by holding the President accountable. We must hold the President accountable and demand that he enforces the laws on the book, and if not, explain to us and to the American people why he chooses not to enforce the laws on the books. And if he is the chief executive officer of this country and he chooses not to do that, what would you do in business if you had the executive of your business not enforcing and running the company the way you are supposed to? I think we all know what would happen.

And I'd like to end with this. There were three Presidents in the 1900s that handled immigration differently. They did what was best for Americans. They sent people home—the Presidents did—because they were looking out for the American citizens. And I have to admire Presidents that would look out for the American citizens.

I always like to refer back to Theodore Roosevelt when he gave that speech at Ellis Island standing on the soapbox overlooking a crowd, realizing and acknowledging that we are a country with a lot of immigrants here. He said, We welcome all immigrants. After all, we are a country of immigrants. But what we expect you to do is this. There's room but for one flag. It's the American flag. You need to learn to honor and respect it. There's room but for one language. It's English. And you need to learn it. You need to assimilate and become Americans in our culture. We'll respect your cultures.

I agree with that, and I am so proud to have a President that would stand up and do what's best for this country. In the end, I think we need to make English the national language.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be recognized here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I'm hopeful that we can carry on some of this dialogue that Mrs. BACHMANN has led over the past hour.

I wanted to make a point about the fact we are a Nation of immigrants. Yes, we are. And we're certainly the Nation that has the most vitality that comes from immigrants. It's one of those things that is embodied in the Statue of Liberty. When you talk about Ellis Island and you look across to the Statue of Liberty, the image that's embodied within her is the image of American exceptionalism, the pillars of American exceptionalism. You see them all. Freedom of speech, religion, the press, the rule of law. Those are central pillars. And property rights, and you face a jury of your peers but you don't have to face them twice. There's no double jeopardy. And states' rights. The list goes on and on. Free enterprise capitalism. It is a Judeo-Christian culture and society that founded this country.

You take out anything that I've said, you pull that out from underneath, and the Shining City on the Hill crumbles. But when you look at the Statue of Liberty and the people that love liberty all over the world see that statue, they find a way to come here because they realize that they can be the best they can be if they can just get to America. That's why we have, in this country, so much vigor and vitality. We have not just the pillars of exceptionalism that I've listed, but also the vigor that comes with people who have dreams.

So they see the statue and they think, I've got a dream to come there. And if I can freely speak and worship and preserve the rule of law, I can operate in a free enterprise society, I can be inspired. If you put that all together, it's a natural filter that goes across the world. It isn't because we screened all of them here. We screened a lot of them at Ellis Island. About 2 percent didn't make the grade, even after they were screened in the old country. They came and landed at Ellis Island and went through the filter and about 2 percent got sent back to the old country. But we got the dreamers. It was almost all dreamers that got on the ship to come here.

So we didn't get just a cross-section of every civilization from Norway to Germany to Ireland to Italy, or wherever it might be, name your country anywhere in the world. We got the vigor of every civilization. We got some of the best and the most energy that came from any civilization to America. So when you coupled that and think of a giant petri dish with all of those rights there and all of the freedoms and the pillars of exceptionalism that I listed, then you put the best people possible in that environment—it doesn't mean they're the smartest; it doesn't mean they're the richest; it doesn't mean they're the best educated; but it means that they are the doers that take that combination of brains and ambition and education and instinct and know-how, and that's what built this great Shining City on the Hill, this America that we are. We cannot let this be torn down. We cannot let them chisel away with their word processor jackhammers, their verbal jackhammers, or their legislative chicanery in order to produce something that undermines this.

I know one of the people that understands that very well is the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. FLEMING. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. FLEMING. Well, I thank my good friend from Iowa for yielding and for his words. And I'd like to build a little bit upon what you were saying, and that is that everyone speaking in this room this evening opposes amnesty—we've already said that each and every one of us opposes amnesty—but we all celebrate immigration. We

come from immigrants. We're a Nation of immigrants.

Going all the way back to the 1700s, my forefathers were immigrants from Scotland. They farmed the land. They were farmers all the way up until my dad left the farm to go to World War II. I'm very proud of that fact, and I'm very proud that other people want to come to this country. I celebrate that. And I want to encourage them to come, as long as they come lawfully.

We have a place for migrant workers, for guest workers to come. We need them. They will do jobs that many Americans won't do, and it benefits them and advantages their families back home, and they send that money back. It's a great working relationship, but it must be done legally.

And then we have the high-end STEM workers who come either with high degrees or earn high degrees here. They bring them with them oftentimes their capital. They start businesses. They start companies. And we want to attract those and keep those. We don't want them taking back our innovations to other countries and then competing with us. We just simply ask that they come here legally. We, of course, as Members of Congress have a responsibility to make sure that we do what's in the best interest of the citizens who are here, whether they were born here or naturalized here.

But I want to shift just slightly to this, and we've touched upon this. One of the biggest fears we have about the Senate amnesty bill—and there's no question about it, it's amnesty by any measure, by any metric—is that we can't trust the President. We can't trust him. Whatever we pass into law, we know he's going to cherry-pick.

How do we know that? Well, look at the Defense of Marriage Act. He refused to defend that to the courts. Appointees to the NLRB, he did that when, of course, the Senate was actually not in session. It's against the Constitution to do that. ObamaCare, he's picking and choosing the parts of the law that he wants to implement.

So I think we can create a long list here tonight of the fact that this President is doing something I have never seen a President do before. In a tripartite government with its checks and balances, we have lost the balances. We have a President that picks and chooses the laws that he wants to obey and enforce. We have a head of the Department of Justice who does exactly the same, even to the point that Congress has held him in contempt.

And so for lack of any better term, that makes him a ruler. He's not a President; he's a ruler. Because if he can just pass whatever laws that are going to be passed and then pick and choose the laws that he's going to enforce and he's going to obey, then we no longer have the checks and balances that go along with the Presidency.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 2140

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, personally, I like the President. And I will refrain from those kind of comments; although I will continue to disagree with him on his approach to this.

I wanted to make a comment in response to the discussion here by Dr. YOHO and Dr. FLEMING.

Yes, we're a Nation of immigrants. I have continually heard that testimony before the Immigration Subcommittee for over a decade now. And so one day I just had this thought that was a little bit off the wall. I just asked this question: Can you name me a nation—I had this panel of experts in front of me—name me a nation that is not a nation of immigrants. And the witness said, well, let's see, that would be—well, name me a people that is not a nation of immigrants, a nation that's not a nation of immigrants. She said, well, that would be the Incas and the Aztecs. The Incas and the Aztecs are not immigrants. I said who, according to anthropologists, came across the Bering Sea about 12,000 years ago? Would you like to try again? Of course that was it for her. She didn't want to try again.

I've asked that question a number of times, and I've been challenged to do a little bit of research. I haven't found a nation that is not a nation of immigrants. Some will say Japan is about as indigenous a population as you can find, but even they, there are a couple of definitions on where they come from. There are two distinct groups for the Japanese, and some of their roots go down to the Polynesian islands, they think—that they might have arrived there. Some of them might have arrived from Asia. And their language and even their appearance differs from the north to the south—I don't know that, but they do.

So if Japan isn't a nation of immigrants, if they did come at one time, name your country around the world. We're all nations of immigrants. The history of the world has been about the migration of human population. That doesn't mean that nations shouldn't exist or shouldn't have borders. Look back over the last couple hundred years and name for me an institution more successful than the nation-state. The nation-states emerged from the city-states, which emerged from the castles in the feudal era, where they had to build a castle and get inside the moat to defend themselves from the marauding hordes that traveled the countryside to rape and pillage.

So then the castles became the city-states, the city-states joined together and became the nation-states, and the nation-states defended themselves against the other nation-states. Nations have borders. You can't be a nation without a border, and you can't call it a border if you don't defend the border.

So if people are willing to argue against a nation-state—that's true with the globalists. They argue against a nation-state. They think they should be able to trade—buy, sell, trade, make gain, and move human population wherever it suits their economy.

So I started to wonder about this. The nation-state is a successful institution. There's nothing wrong with a border; you must have it. It's Biblical as well. When St. Paul gave his famous sermon on Mars Hill in Acts 17, he said: And God made all nations on Earth, and He decided when and where each nation would be.

Well, this is the United States of America—a very blessed nation, a nation that was formed with this religious concept, driven also by a lot of other forces of manifest destiny. This country was formed and shaped from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, from sea to shining sea, in the blink of an historical eye. How did that happen? How did that happen that we happen to have all of these rights that come from God? Not accidental.

We are an extraordinary nation for a lot of exceptional reasons, and we've talked about those exceptional reasons. But nations should be proud of the nations that they are, and no nation could be more proud than the United States of America. We are the unchallenged, greatest nation in the world, and we risk a decline if some of the people in this Congress don't come back around to embrace the pillars of American exceptionalism.

So I ask myself, what is it that the people on my side of the aisle, but also across the country, what is in the Gang of Eight's bill that's good for America and Americans? Who has benefited when you look across the country? First I looked at it and my serious thought was, well, nobody. Then I dug a little deeper, and I said I'm going to be challenged if I say nobody in America is benefited by this. So I produced a complete list. I think this is a complete list of the Americans that are benefited by the Gang of Eight's bill.

First, the elitists—the elitists being those people that want to hire cheap labor to take care of their gardens and their lawns and clean their houses and their toilets and do those things that people say Americans won't do or don't want to do. So they want to be able to hire cheap labor to take care of themselves, and maybe paint the gate in their gated community and oil the hinges for them and then lock the gate outside, or however they might do that. Elitists benefit from cheap labor.

The next group of people that benefit are Democrat power brokers—not the blue collars, not, in the short term, the unions, not the workers, but Democrat power brokers who have a long-term strategy—which isn't very far down the line—to capitalize politically on the massive votes that they would bring in if the Gang of Eight bill is passed.

You don't have to ask Democrats what they think—it's very, very clear: they're political beneficiaries; if they're power brokers, they want this done. Elitists and Democrat power brokers.

Third, employers of illegals, whatever their party might be. They want to be able to hire cheap labor. And they would say, well, if you legalize them, the cost of wages are going to go up. Well, they want to have a continual supply of cheap, illegal labor coming in. That's why this is perpetual and retroactive amnesty. It doesn't stop the flow of illegal immigration, it just lets those that want to legalize themselves get right with the law. It gives amnesty to the illegal employers—they can't go back on them after the Gang of Eight's bill might become law.

So that's the three groups of people that benefit from the Gang of Eight's bill—elitists, Democrat power brokers, and employers of illegals. By the way, go to any of those groups of people and ask them: Do you want those folks to go back to where they are legal? Just challenge them. I would tell you the elitists don't. They want their cheap labor to clean their toilets and cut their grass and take care of their gardens, their flower gardens for them. Democrat power brokers surely don't. By the way, they understand this—that they have political power anyway, legal or illegal, because the census counts the people, not the citizens, for purposes of apportionment and reapportionment. So what that means is there are 9 to 11 congressional seats in America that would change hands politically if we counted citizens instead of people. Because some of these districts are way overloaded with illegal populations, they're counted. I didn't see how many votes it took for—well, I'd better not get personal with this. I'll just tell you it takes me 120,000 votes at least to get elected before we redistricted. And there are seats here that it only takes 40,000 to win. That's because there are a lot of illegals in the district that are counted. They have representation in this Congress.

So who doesn't want them to go home? Just ask them. Do the elitists want them to go back to their home country? No. They're beneficiaries. Democrat power brokers? No. They're beneficiaries. Then what about employers of illegals? Certainly not. They're beneficiaries. They get a continuing supply of illegal labor—a labor that is going to be legalized. And then those folks that come in afterwards, that deadline, they're going to be legalized too. That's the three groups. Otherwise, there isn't anybody in America that's a beneficiary from this that I can come up with. The rest of Americans are disadvantaged by this idea.

If you have two jobs and three people that are qualified to do that work, then you've got at least somebody that can bid that work down. If there are only two people available for that job or meet the qualifications, they name their price. Well, multiply that out into the millions and see what happens with the no-skilled and the low-skilled workers. That's where you get double-digit unemployment, no-and-low skilled.

Why would you bring in more no-and-low-skilled people—especially those illiterate in their own language—to come in and do more of this work when you've got an overload there anyway? And the supply and demand piece of this tells it.

We listen to the numbers of 24 million unemployed Americans—that would be those that are unemployed and those that are underemployed I think that number adds to, if I'm not mistaken. But I know that Stuart Varney said that there are 88 million who are simply not in the workforce. That number now goes to 92 million. If I understand the data right, you add the raw unemployed number to that. However you do that, we end up with more than 100 million Americans of working age who are simply not in the workforce.

Now, what kind of a nation would you have to be to decide that even though you've got double-digit unemployment in the no-and-low-skilled jobs, that you would go find a few more people that—go bring in millions more to add them to the unemployment rolls and add Americans or legal immigrants to the rolls as a consequence.

This is an appalling miscalculation on the part of the people that advocate for this. They apparently have not done the math or they don't care, or they fit within the category of elitists, Democrat power brokers, or employers of illegals, or those who are, I'll say, influenced by their opinions.

I want to yield to the gentlelady from Minnesota and then to the gentleman from Texas.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I will just be brief.

It seems like you have the power brokers in this country act like this is such a difficult issue to solve, that this is some big, perplexing issue with immigration.

The fact is immigration policy worked beautifully for hundreds of years in this country. And as recently as 1950, when my in-laws immigrated to the United States from Switzerland, it was pretty simple. You had to show that you were physically fit when you came into the country; you didn't have a transmittable disease that other people in America could pick up. That's pretty self-explanatory. You had a little bit of money in your pocket. You didn't have to be wealthy, but you had to show that you had a little bit of money on you. You also had to have a sponsor. You had to have someone here in the United States who would vouch and say if anything happens to that person, I'm the one who will be responsible, I'm the one who will answer. And the person coming in had to verify that they would not become a burden on the taxpayers of America. Because they knew when they came in, they had to come in as a net plus for the country. They couldn't take more out than what they were bringing in. That was the agreement.

The other part of the agreement is, whoever came into the country had to swear under oath they would learn to speak the English language—as Mr. YOHO indicated—and they would learn the Constitution of the United States and a little bit of the American history. They had to know that.

□ 2150

My in-laws took that very seriously. They were farmers in Wisconsin. They've been net plus to this country, proud Americans. They've fed thousands of people with the work that they've done in Wisconsin. But they kept their end of the bargain. America kept its end of the bargain to my in-laws, but they kept their end of the bargain also.

Again, I think Dr. FLEMING hit it earlier when he quoted Dr. Milton Friedman, You can't have an open border in a welfare state. Because, you see, in 1950 there was no modern welfare state. That is our problem.

We have to deal with our current reality, don't we? Our current reality is we have a gigantic welfare state. Knowing that, we cannot bring people into this country who will not add to the economy. Why would we import into the country people who are going to consume more revenue than what they bring in when they are $17 trillion in debt?

This adds up. That's why this is not very difficult to figure out. It is actually fairly simple. All we have to do is abide by the policies that we embraced in 1950, and you've got a solution; you've got a solution to the problem.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time for a moment, some of the institutions out here that advocate for open borders will argue that no matter who comes into this country, if they do an hour's worth of work, they've contributed to the GDP; therefore, they're a net asset to our economy. How would a tax attorney respond to such a statement?

Mrs. BACHMANN. What I would say is this: Who is benefiting? The studies all confirm that it is the illegal immigrant who is the recipient of that money. It isn't going to the taxpayers.

What we do know from a tax point of view is that illegal immigrants on average pay somewhere about $10,000 in taxes, but they receive over $30,000 in taxpayer-subsidized revenue benefits; therefore, they are a net negative to the American Treasury of $20,000 a year.

Now, why in any universe would you import people into the United States that cost us on average, not just $20,000 one time, $20,000 every year? As a matter of fact, Robert Rector has said in his work that the average illegal immigrant cost the United States Treasury over the course of their lifetime about $1 million. Why would we do that? Why would we do that? Because we are robbing from our children. That's why it doesn't make sense. We are hurting the American middle class who are here legally.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentlelady from Minnesota.

Reclaiming my time, I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you. I too want to follow up on something Dr. FLEMING was referring to. The Senate bill was considered some great panacea. It's going to solve all the problems. We are finally going to get border security, we are told.

But I can think of at least a couple of times when this President has said, if the Congress doesn't change the law, I will. Basically he said, if they don't act by changing the law, then I'll act.

We've seen him do that. When he didn't like the law on immigration, he changed the law just by his own decree. We've seen with regard to even ObamaCare—his signature bill from his first administration—it's not going well. He wouldn't come ask Congress, uh-oh, it's not going well so let's change the law. So he just gave ''so as I speak so shall it be,'' which is not reminiscent of normal Presidential conduct.

It is important that a President enforce the law, advocate for changes in the law, but under no circumstances is the President supposed to change the law to fit his own desires. I mean, you advocate, but the checks and balances which are the real genius behind the Constitution that do create gridlock, that create tensions between the different branches are what keeps this place from becoming a monarchy.

This President, when he says, If Congress doesn't act to change the law, then I will take care of it, well, we've seen that with gun control. He didn't like the fact that Congress was not changing the law when we were demanding that he enforce the laws that are there. All of these killers that have just been a plague on society, they violated plenty of laws. But this administration may be the worst at enforcing the gun laws. Certainly this administration has really been wanting in the area of enforcing the gun laws; and instead they come around and say, we want new gun laws. Well, that's not the way to do it.

I know that Republicans say, look, look, it's important we get this off the table, let's just get it off the table so let's pass something and that will get it off the table and then we can get on to the other things. I have already mentioned I think the thing to do is say, Resolved: the House is not going to take up an immigration bill until the President, the executive branch, Homeland Security, secures the border. Woodrow Wilson—and I'm not a fan of his historically—but in 1916 when Americans were threatened by rage across the border and Americans killed, that President secured the border, pure and simple. He secured the border, and he didn't go run around demanding that a new immigration bill be passed and we give amnesty to people.

There is a great article that National Review had from Fred Bauer. He said:

> Any argument that says the GOP should support such a measure to remove immigration as a political issue should be treated with immediate suspicion. Millions would be left as illegal immigrants under the Senate plan and most other legalization plans a million more illegal immigrants, according to the Congressional Budget Office, would arrive over the next 10 years. Many provisions of the Senate bill, from the law wait time for citizenship to the status of guest workers, provide plenty of opportunities for the left to demagog this issue. Any changes to U.S. immigration law also change the future composition of the body politic. Immigration as a national policy question has not been ''off the table'' since 1789. Don't expect the latest link of congressional sausage to change that.

I think that's well said.

This is not going to be off the table. The way that we should deal with it responsibly is hold the administration accountable. You enforce the law and then we'll get an immigration bill done very quickly after that. I know we will.

All my colleagues here know there are parts of the immigration law that need to be fixed. But until the border is secure, not closed, but secured, we are wasting our time talking about a comprehensive immigration bill, or even good bills like TREY GOWDY or other bills that people have had; we shouldn't even be talking about them. Let the immigration secure the border and then we can work these things out very quickly. It's like a huge flood in your basement. If you run down and start with a mop while the water is still pouring in, you're making a mistake. You first stop the flood, and then you can clean up the problems after that.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Texas. I just think of Congressman PHIL GINGREY, another doctor that engages in policy here, who once on this floor, probably at least once, said that when he is working in the emergency room and a patient comes in on a gurney and there's blood pouring off the gurney, you don't just go get the mop and the bucket and start to mop up the floor; you stop the bleeding first. Let's stop the bleeding at the border.

I think how hard is it to secure this border? It is not that hard. With the resources that we have, we are spending today—this is a 2,000-mile border, it's not just a rounded number, I mean, it is right at 2,000 miles—we are spending over $6.5 million a mile on the southern border each and every year. So I look at that and I think, what are the economics of this? This is one of the advantages of being a ditch digger, a construction guy, because I figure this stuff out on what it cost to build things.

We are building interstate highway through expensive Iowa cornfields for $4 million a mile, buying the right-of-way, doing the engineering, the archeological, environmental, the fencing, the seeding, the paving, the shouldering and the painting. All of that gets done for $4 million a mile, and we are spending $6.5 million a mile to guard a long barren desert that a lot of it doesn't even have one barbed wire fence on it. It's just got a concrete pile on from horizon to horizon—$6.5 plus million a mile.

So think of that. What would it take to build a fence, a wall and a fence if we can build interstate for $4 million a mile and we are spending $6.5 million a mile to—I guess they interdict perhaps 25 percent of the people that try? Instead, we can build a fence, a wall and a fence, we can secure the border, and we can do it with the resources that we have. We just have to want to. It has got to be about the rule of law, it has got to be secure the border first, it has got to be and who's going to be the metric. Let it be the border State Governors, the border State legislatures passing a resolution that the border is secure. Then let's have the balance of this conversation, not until, not unless.

It's like your teenager coming to you saying, Dad, I need the keys to the car. I know I've never mowed the lawn or carried out the garbage, I promise I will, just let me have the car tonight. I'll be back tomorrow. Is he going to keep his word? He hasn't even fired up the lawnmower yet. He doesn't know where the gas is. He probably doesn't know where the mower is.

Do the job first and then come back to us and talk to us, but let's not destroy this rule of law that's an essential pillar of American exceptionalism. Whatever it takes, we must block amnesty.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your attention and all of the people that spoke here tonight for this hour and a half to preserve and protect the rule of law, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SCHWEIKERT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for tomorrow on account of attending the funeral service for the firefighters who were killed in the Arizona wildfire.

Mr. WALBERG (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of flight delays due to mechanical issues and weather.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and tomorrow on account of the birth of his grandson.

Mr. HORSFORD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of medically mandated recovery.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISIONS TO THE ALLOCATIONS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET RESOLUTION RELATED TO LEGISLATION REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2013.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record revisions to the aggregate budget levels and committee allocations set forth pursuant to H. Con. Res. 25, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014, as put into effect by H. Res. 243. The revisions are for new budget authority and outlays consistent with a technical correction to the FY2014 discretionary spending caps allowed under the Budget Control Act of 2011 as published by the Office of Management and Budget on May 20, 2013. A corresponding table showing the revised budget aggregates and allocations is attached. A letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget that further explains the technical correction is also attached.

This revision represents an adjustment for purposes of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Budget Act. For the purposes of the Budget Act, these revised allocations are to be considered as allocations included in the levels of the budget resolution, pursuant to section 101 of H. Con. Res. 25 and H. Rept. 113–17, as adjusted.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. RYAN OF WISCONSIN,
Chairman, House Budget Committee.

BUDGET AGGREGATES

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal year	
	2014	2014–2023
Current Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	2,760,943	[1]
Outlays	2,811,260	[1]
Revenues	2,310,972	31,089,081
Adjustment for Technical Correction to BCA Discretionary Spending Cap:		
Budget Authority	549	[1]
Outlays	308	[1]
Revenues	0	0
Revised Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	2,761,492	[1]
Outlays	2,811,568	[1]
Revenues	2,310,972	31,089,081

[1] Not applicable because annual appropriations acts for fiscal years 2015–2023 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

	2014
Base Discretionary Action	
BA	966,924
OT	1,117,675
Adjustment for Disaster Designated Spending	
BA	5,626
OT	281
Global War on Terrorism	
BA	92,289
OT	48,010
Adjustment for Technical Correction to BCA Spending Caps	
BA	549
OT	308
Total Discretionary Action	
BA	1,065,388
OT	1,166,274
Current Law Mandatory:	
BA	749,400
OT	738,140

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, DC, June 5, 2013.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter responds to your May 21, 2013, request for additional information on the corrections made to the OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2014 and the OMB Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions for Fiscal Year 2014. The corrections addressed computational errors OMB identified in some of the underlying calculations and resulted in no net change in the total reduction required by section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA), as amended.

The attached table lists, for each direct spending account that was corrected, the originally calculated baseline and sequester amounts, the corrected baseline and sequester amounts, and the amount of the change. As shown at the bottom of Table 3 of the corrected version of the OMB Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions for Fiscal Year 2014, the corrections have the net effect of increasing the sequestration of non-defense direct spending outlays for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 to $18.058 billion. The corrections also expand the sequestrable base, which lowers the sequestration percentage for non-defense direct spending from 7.3 percent to 7.2 percent.

Finally, I can confirm that as a result of these corrections, the non-defense discretionary cap for FY 2014 is $469.391 billion. The defense discretionary cap for FY 2014 is $498.082 billion. These amounts are shown in Table 2 of the corrected version of the OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristen J. Sarri, Associate Director for Legislative Affairs, at (202) 395–4790.

Sincerely,

SYLVIA M. BURWELL,
Director.

Enclosure.

ACCOUNTS WITH TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN THE FY2014 OMB JC SEQUESTRATION PREVIEW REPORT

[Millions of dollars]

	April 10th		Corrected		Change	
	Base	Sequester	Base	Sequester	Base	Sequester
Department of Justice						
Crime Victims Fund (011-21-5041)						
Budget authority	800	58	11,431	823	10,631	765
Outlays	720	53	10,287	741	9,567	688
Accounts with Duplicative Records						
Department of Labor						
Federal Unemployment Benefits and Allowances (012–05–0326)						
Budget authority	978	71	656	47	−322	−24
Outlays	910	66	588	42	−322	−24
Department of Homeland Security						
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (024–55–0540)						
Budget authority	690	50	345	25	−345	−25
Outlays	684	50	342	25	−342	−25
Department of the Treasury						
Santee Sioux Tribe Development Trust Fund (015–12–8626)						
Budget authority	4	*	2	*	−2	*
Outlays	4	*	2	*	−2	*
Yankton Sioux Tribe Development Trust Fund (015–12–8627)						
Budget authority	18	1	9	1	−9	*
Outlays	18	1	9	1	−9	*

*Less than $500,000

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 324. An act to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II.

H.R. 1151. An act to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the triennial International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2383. An act to designate the new Interstate Route 70 bridge over the Mississippi River connecting St. Louis, Missouri, and southwestern Illinois as the ''Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge''.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 9, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2187. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20–91, ''Fiscal Year 2013 Revised Budget Request Temporary Adjustment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2188. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20–92, ''Saving D.C. Homes from Foreclosure Enhanced Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2189. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20–93, ''Teachers' Retirement Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2190. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20–94, ''Attendance Accountability Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2191. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20–95, ''Fire and Casualty Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2192. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Brazoria County, Texas Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement; (H. Doc. No. 113—44); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

2193. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Wood River Levee System Reconstruction, Illinois, Post Authorization Change Report; (H. Doc. No. 113—45); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

2194. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Louisiana Coastal Area, Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration Project Lafourche, Jefferson, and Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana Final Report; (H. Doc. No. 113—46); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure 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 provisions of H. Res. 274, the following reports were filed on July 2, 2013]

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2609. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–135). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. LATHAM: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2610. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–136). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Filed July 8, 2013]

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 697. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project Site, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–137). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 761. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness; with an amendment (Rept. 113–138 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1411. A bill to include the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands in the California Coastal National Monument as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–139). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1497. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to ensure that memorials commemorating the service of the United States Armed Forces may contain religious symbols, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rep. 113–140). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1574. A bill to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to rename a site of the part (Rept. 113–141). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1564. A bill to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to prohibit the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from requiring public companies to use specific auditors or require the use of different auditors on a rotating basis; with an amendment (Rept. 113–142). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky: Committee on Appropriations. Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2014 (Rept. 113–143). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 288. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2609) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–144). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 761 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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 Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2611. A bill to designate the headquarters building of the Coast Guard on the campus located at 2701 Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue Southeast in the District of Columbia as the ''Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BARLETTA (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. RAHALL):

H.R. 2612. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve the functioning and management of the Public Buildings Service; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia:

H.R. 2613. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to provide the President with the authority to exempt civilian Department of Defense personnel accounts from sequestration; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia:

H.R. 2614. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to provide the President with the authority to exempt civilian Department of Defense personnel accounts from sequestration; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. ENYART):

H.R. 2615. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to cap rural post office closures at no more than 5 percent of total closures in any given year, and for other purposes.; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. EDWARDS (for herself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 2616. A bill to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. EDWARDS (for herself and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 2617. A bill to establish the Apollo Lunar Landing Sites National Historical Park on the Moon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 2618. A bill to allow certain State and local government employees to elect to treat employment as medicare qualified government employment for purposes of entitlement to Medicare coverage; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. LEWIS:

H.R. 2619. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of pulmonary self-management education and training services furnished by a qualified respiratory therapist in a physician practice; 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 Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2620. A bill to revise the composition of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution so that all members are individuals appointed by the President from a list of nominees submitted by the leadership of the Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2621. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution from charging a fee for admission to any exhibit which is part of the permanent collection of any museum or facility which is part of any bureau established in or under the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2622. A bill to provide for the application of sections 552, 552a, and 552b of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2623. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to require public notice of excess real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 2624. A bill to provide for enhanced protections for vulnerable unaccompanied alien children and female detainees; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, and Appropriations, 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. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 2625. A bill to protect the rights of children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 2626. A bill to extend funding for the Corporation for Travel Promotion under the Travel Promotion Act of 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mrs. CAPITO):

H.R. 2627. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to protect the health care benefits of our Nation's miners; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. WATERS:

H. Con. Res. 43. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony honoring the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela on the occasion of the 95th anniversary of his birth; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. BARLETTA):

H. Con. Res. 44. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. LEWIS):

H. Res. 289. A resolution recognizing the commencement of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal, and commending Muslims in the United States and throughout the world for their faith; 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.

[Submitted July 2, 2013]

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 2609.

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

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. LATHAM:

H.R. 2610.

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

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

[Submitted July 8, 2013]

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2611.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 2612.

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 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 clause 17 (relating to authority over the district as the seat of government), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia:

H.R. 2613.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia:

H.R. 2614.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 2615.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to establish Post Offices and post Roads, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. EDWARDS:

H.R. 2616.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. EDWARDS:

H.R. 2617.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 2618.

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

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 1

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 2619.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2620.

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

section 1 of article I, and clause 18, section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2621.

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

section 1 of article I, and clause 18, section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2622.

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

section 1 of article I, and clause 18, section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2623.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 2624.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 2625.

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

Article I, Section 8

''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 this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 2626.

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

Article 1, 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.

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 2627.

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.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 32: Mr. ENYART and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 62: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 69: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 107: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 129: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 140: Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 164: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 274: Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 303: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 309: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 310: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 367: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 375: Ms. ESTY and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 401: Mr. POCAN and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 523: Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 535: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 543: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 556: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 604: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 611: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 621: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 628: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 630: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 637: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 647: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 675: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 683: Mr. HOLT, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. ESTY, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 685: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. SIRES, Ms. DELAURO and Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 690: Mr. ENYART, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 698: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 718: Mr. GOWDY.

H.R. 719: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 755: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 761: Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 763: Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 794: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 800: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 805: Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 846: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LONG, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. JOYCE, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 850: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 851: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 902: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 904: Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 920: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 924: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 940: Mr. THORNBERRY and Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 946: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 949: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 980: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 983: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 984: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 1014: Mr. MARINO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FORBES, Mr. BONNER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1020: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. MCKEON, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1024: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 1030: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 1074: Mr. HOLT, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1077: Mr. BENTIVOLIO and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1091: Mr. PITTS, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 1102: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 1148: Mr. HECK of Washington and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 1175: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1178: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1199: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1250: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 1263: Mr. KING of New York, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1276: Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. DENT, and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 1281: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 1309: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 1310: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 1329: Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 1339: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1351: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1363: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 1384: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1385: Mr. TIERNEY and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1394: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 1427: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 1443: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1465: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1470: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1494: Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 1496: Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 1502: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 1518: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ENYART, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1524: Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1552: Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 1563: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 1564: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. MOORE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H.R. 1579: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 1620: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1621: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 1623: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1634: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 1690: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1692: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1696: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 1699: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1717: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1726: Mr. SABLAN and Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 1729: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 1736: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 1737: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1750: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 1771: Mrs. NOEM, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 1772: Mr. HALL.

H.R. 1779: Mr. COTTON, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. SIMPSON, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 1796: Mr. HIMES and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1801: Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 1809: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1821: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 1825: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 1844: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1848: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 1874: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana and Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 1878: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 1892: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1900: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARTON, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 1907: Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 1918: Ms. JENKINS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 1920: Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. KEATING, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 1931: Mrs. LUMMIS and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1943: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1950: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 1962: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 1981: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1982: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1991: Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 1999: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 2002: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 2009: Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GOWDY, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 2011: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 2014: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 2016: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. ESTY, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2020: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 2041: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 2053: Mr. BENISHEK, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 2058: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2073: Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 2076: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 2085: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 2087: Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 2088: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2093: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 2094: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2137: Mr. TONKO, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 2139: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2169: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2199: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 2201: Mr. HONDA and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 2220: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 2224: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 2241: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2273: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 2282: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 2288: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 2300: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 2305: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mrs. BLACK, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.
H.R. 2309: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2316: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2322: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2329: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 2332: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 2346: Mr. CASSIDY.
H.R. 2347: Mr. HUNTER and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 2368: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 2385: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 2399: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 2408: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 2412: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 2422: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. ESTY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 2428: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2449: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2454: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 2457: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. PETERS of California, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2458: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 2459: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 2494: Mr. HOLT and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2495: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 2511: Mr. LABRADOR and Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 2516: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2517: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2519: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2520: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2536: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 2539: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2540: Mr. RUSH, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2542: Mr. HANNA and Mr. HUELSKAMP.
H.R. 2544: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 2546: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. RADEL.
H.R. 2553: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 2560: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2565: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2571: Mr. RENACCI and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 2574: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2575: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. STOCKMAN.
H.R. 2590: Mr. OWENS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2604: Ms. BASS and Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.J. Res. 28: Mr. HARPER.
H.J. Res. 43: Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H. Con. Res. 23: Mrs. ROBY.
H. Con. Res. 24: Mr. ROSS and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H. Con. Res. 34: Mr. OWENS.
H. Res. 63: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H. Res. 89: Mr. PETRI, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. MAFFEI.
H. Res. 109: Ms. JENKINS, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H. Res. 112: Ms. GABBARD.
H. Res. 131: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H. Res. 134: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 137: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H. Res. 147: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
H. Res. 190: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. LATHAM.
H. Res. 197: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H. Res. 213: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H. Res. 250: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H. Res. 273: Mr. STOCKMAN.
H. Res. 276: Ms. LEE of California.
H. Res. 282: Mrs. CAPPS.
H. Res. 284: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2609

OFFERED BY: MR. MORAN

AMENDMENT NO. 1: Page 11, beginning on line 8, strike section 107.

H.R. 2609

OFFERED BY: MR. MORAN

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Page 13, beginning on line 1, strike section 112.

H.R. 2609

OFFERED BY: MR. TIPTON

AMENDMENT NO. 3: Page 60, after line 6, insert the following:

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act maybe used for the National Blueways System.

H.R. 2609

OFFERED BY: MR. CHAFFETZ

AMENDMENT NO. 4: Page 23, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $100,000,000)''.

Page 60, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $100,000,000)''.

H.R. 2609

OFFERED BY: MS. SPEIER

AMENDMENT NO. 5: Page 23, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $30,000,000)''.

Page 60, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $30,000,000)''.

H.R. 2609

OFFERED BY: MR. PETERS OF MICHIGAN

AMENDMENT NO. 6: Page 28, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $15,000,000)''.

Page 60, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $15,000,000)''.

H.R. 2609

OFFERED BY: MR. TAKANO

AMENDMENT NO. 7: Page 22, line 5, after the dollar amount insert ''(inceased by $245,000,000)''.

Page 29, line 21, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $245,000,000)''.

H.R. 2609

OFFERED BY: MR. TAKANO

AMENDMENT NO. 8: Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $7,000,000)''.

Page 29, line 21, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $7,000,000)''.

H.R. 2609

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 9: Page 28, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 49, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013 No. 96

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, our refuge and strength, continue to shower Your blessings upon humanity. Turn sorrow into gladness, doubt into faith, and despair into hope.

May our Senators use all the circumstances of their lives to produce fruits of integrity. Lord, let them use disappointment as material for patience, danger as material for courage, praise as material for humility, and pain as material for perseverance. Guide their thinking as You bind them together in unity, for You, O God, are peace in our pressure, guidance in our confusion, and hope in our helplessness.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

KEEP STUDENT LOANS AFFORDABLE ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 124, S. 1238, the student loan bill offered by Senator REED of Rhode Island.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1238) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the current reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans for 1 year, to modify required distribution rules for pension plans, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 5 p.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Gregory Phillips of Wyoming to be U.S. circuit judge for the Tenth Circuit. At 5:30 p.m. this evening there will be a rollcall vote on confirmation of the Phillips nomination.

PASSING BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. I welcome back the Presiding Officer, the President pro tempore of the Senate. I hope he and all of my colleagues had a restful and productive week with the instate work that was done during the 10 days we were gone.

It was a pleasure to meet and spend time with my constituents in Nevada over the break and with my family. I had a wonderful time with my family. Four of my children were there—actually, five were there for a short period of time, all five of them. We had a wonderful Fourth of July at my son's home. Everyone was there—neighbors. There was a great party. My grandson set off the fireworks. I am not going to ask where he got them, but there were a lot of fireworks and there was a lot of fun. It was a real celebration.

Everywhere I went I saw immense enthusiasm for this historic bipartisan immigration reform bill we passed before the Fourth of July. Often I heard how pleased Nevadans were to finally see bipartisanship in the Senate. They saw bipartisanship blossom. This has happened far too rarely in recent years. Americans of all political stripes are united behind the need for commonsense reform. Even a large majority of Republicans believes immigration reform will be good for the economy and good for national security.

As everyone here knows, I don't often tout the accomplishments of President Bush—Bush No. 2—but I really appreciate what he did at the first public event at his new library in Texas. It was an event honoring into our country new immigrants to become citizens. After the event, the President spoke about the need for passing the Senate bill. When he was President, to his credit, he did everything he could to try to get it done, but Republicans would not follow the direction he felt we should go. Senate Republicans did follow that in the last vote. We had 68 votes, and 14 of my Republican colleagues voted with us. I appreciate that, and I appreciate what President Bush did to focus his attention on this again.

I appreciate all the groups around the country, from the chamber of commerce to other conservative groups, who are running paid advertisements on television saying they—the Republicans here in the House—should pass the legislation we passed here. The only Republicans who aren't yet convinced are in Washington in the House of Representatives. Republicans around the country believe it is important that we do this immigration reform legislation. As I indicated, 68 Senators voted for this historic reform, but our responsibility didn't end with that vote. It is our duty to convince our colleagues in the House that, yes, they should vote with us.

Bipartisan immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship makes economic sense as well as political sense. Unfortunately, over the last few weeks Speaker BOEHNER has taken a different route that is one of ignoring the needs of the American people. Rather than moving to the center and advancing a bill that would appeal to moderates on both sides of the Capitol, Speaker BOEHNER has repeatedly tried to pass legislation with only Republican votes.

The Hastert rule, named after a recent Republican Speaker—passing only

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

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bills that have the support of the majority of the majority, the only thing they are going to let happen—doesn't work, and it is bad for the country. Any major legislation passed by the House of Representatives with only Republican votes has no hope of advancing here or being signed into law by the President.

I hope the Speaker has learned his lesson from recent high-profile failures of his shortsighted Hastert rule—post office, farm bill, online sales tax, immigration. Eventually he will be forced to take up the bill we passed here or the country will be left with no immigration reform at all, which will be a bad outcome.

The Speaker should dispense with the posturing and delay and do the right thing, and he should do it now. He should take up the Senate farm bill on which Chairman STABENOW worked so hard. They should pass that bill. They should take it up over there and pass it. Farmers are waiting, and all the nutrition groups around the country are waiting. He should do that right now.

He should take up the Senate immigration bill. I say that for the second or third time today. This measure—a farm bill that passed overwhelmingly on bipartisan votes in this Chamber—the passing of the farm bill would create jobs and reduce the debt by some $23 billion. And it is important to note that there are reforms both in the farm and food stamp programs without balancing the budget on the backs of hungry Americans. In fact, it goes a long way toward reducing our debt.

Passing the immigration bill would help 11 million people who are already contributing to our economy and our society to get right with the law. It would boost our economy and make our country safer, all the while reducing the deficit by about $1 trillion over the next two decades.

I remind the Speaker that there is no shame in passing bills that moderates from both parties can support. Americans want their elected officials to work together to fix the Nation's problems. This is what we did in the Senate. I promise the formula will work in the House of Representatives as well. The Speaker should try that.

Sticking to the Hastert rule has prevented the House from passing legislation to reform the ailing Postal Service. Postal reform passed over here on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. The Speaker refused to even consider it last Congress, didn't even take it up.

Sticking to the Hastert rule prevented the House from passing a measure that would give brick-and-mortar stores parity with online competitors. We passed that on a bipartisan vote. It is heartbreaking all over America. I see it in Nevada when I go by these strip malls and see places that, if they had the advantage of not having to pay sales tax—which is what happens online—they would be in business. They would go back into business if the sales tax would have to be paid by the people who sell their goods over the Internet. It is unfair. Why the Speaker doesn't take that up I don't know.

We already know that sticking to the Hastert rule prevented the House from passing a farm bill last month and last year.

This month sticking to the Hastert rule prevented the House from passing immigration reform that would become law.

Insisting on the Hastert rule also prevented Speaker BOEHNER from reaching across the aisle to find a sensible solution to our rising student loan interest rates. Right now, what they have done on the other side is worse for students than doing nothing at all. The legislation passed by the House would balance the budget on the backs of struggling students—would attempt to balance it, at least. The House legislation is worse for students than doing nothing at all. Under the House plan, as interest rates start to rise, student loan rates will rise with them. Soon loan rates will be more than double. I met with the White House, one of the President's assistants. I said: Tell me what happens in 3 years. He had to acknowledge that the rates would be well over 6.8 percent.

To find a responsible solution to the student loan issue and every other major issue facing this Congress, the Speaker should work with us and his Democratic colleagues in the House instead of against them. He should remember that the only way to pass meaningful legislation in either Chamber is to do so with votes from both reasonable Democrats and reasonable Republicans.

I am told the Speaker is going to come out with a statement today saying: We passed our student loan legislation. Now why can't the Senate pass it?

I repeat, the Speaker's student loan legislation that passed the House is worse than doing nothing. The Hastert rule has been bad for this country, and Speaker BOEHNER should get away from it.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business and that Senators be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each prior to the executive session at 5 p.m., with the exception of Senator SCOTT, who is giving his maiden speech today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business for the day.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SCOTT. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

UNLEASHING OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. SCOTT. It is indeed a humbling honor to serve the great people of South Carolina in the Senate. I am so grateful for the support I have received from South Carolinians.

The success of the Palmetto State can be measured in many ways, but today, let me share the success of our economic engine. From insourcing jobs from other countries, jobs such as Otis Elevators in Florence, SC, or the high-tech boom that is happening throughout South Carolina, companies such as BMW in the upstate continue to expand. Michelin, in Anderson County expands. Continental Tires finds a home in Sumter, SC, and there are more than 5,000 new jobs on the coast of South Carolina because of Boeing. And let's not forget Aiken, SC, where Bridgestone has made a new home. South Carolina is and will continue to be a leading manufacturing engine for America.

I stand before you today on the shoulders of two very amazing Americans. One has gone home to be with the Lord. The other is my hero, my mother, Frances Scott.

Growing up in a single-parent household, my mother would have to work sometimes 16-hour days in order to keep me and my brother off of welfare. She wanted us to have a good example of someone who believed in hard work for us to follow.

My mother used to tell me all the time that if you shoot for the Moon and you miss, you will be among the stars. But I didn't always listen to my mother. By the time I was a freshman in high school, I was drifting. Have you ever noticed that you don't really drift in the right direction? As a freshman in high school, I failed out. I failed world geography. I think I am the only U.S. Senator to fail civics. I also failed Spanish and English.

When you fail Spanish and English, they don't call you bilingual. They call you bi-ignorant because you can't speak in any language.

That's where I found myself. I found myself in a very strong and hard position, but good fortune strikes. I had two blessings. One was a mother who believes that sometimes love has to come at the end of the switch. For those of you who are not aware of what a switch is, it is a motivational apparatus, and it encouraged me a lot. I will say that, along with my mentor John Moniz, who came along at the right time—I was a sophomore—I found my way back on the path. John Moniz was a Chick-fil-A operator who made such a major impact in my life over the last three decades.

John came along as I was a sophomore in high school, and he taught me some very, very valuable lessons. A couple of those lessons John started teaching me very early on were about being a business owner. John believed that you could literally think your way out of poverty. You didn't have to be an entertainer or an athlete, but you could become an entrepreneur. So John started teaching me some of the lessons of being a business owner. He said having a job is a good thing, but creating jobs is even better.

John would teach me later that in earning an income, you have done well. But if you can learn to create a profit, you have done fantastically. He taught me some other lessons about individual responsibility. John once told me: If you don't like where you are, look in the mirror. Blame yourself. John was trying to teach me some very valuable lessons about individual responsibility.

I learned very quickly from John that if you were a part of the problem, you were also part of the promise; that in fact if you saw yourself as a part of your obstacle, you may have found the key ingredient to your opportunities. It took a little time before the lessons of my mentor and the strong discipline of my mother started to germinate in my soul, but it finally did.

After 4 years of having John as my mentor, something very tragic happened. At the young age of 38, John suddenly passed away. I remember the day before his funeral as though it were yesterday. I sat down and wrote out my mission statement: to positively impact the lives of a billion people with the message of hope and opportunity—hope being my faith in Christ Jesus and opportunity being the lessons of financial literacy and financial independence I learned from my mentor John Moniz.

I decided to follow in the footsteps of my mentor John. I started my own business, and I learned very quickly the challenges of signing the front of the paycheck when you could not sign the back for yourself. Over the last two decades, as a business owner and as an elected official—whether it was as a member of the county council or a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives or being elected to the U.S. Congress—I have used as my foundation the lessons I learned from my mentor and my mother.

During my time here in the Senate I will focus on a few key issues, including education, economic empowerment, and controlling our spending addiction. As a small business owner over the last 15 years I can tell you firsthand that our Tax Code is broken. With the highest corporate tax rate in all the world, and the taxing of small and family-owned businesses at an alarming rate, we will continue to produce a slow-growth economy.

The regulatory nightmare facing our small business owners today is only worsened by the ''Unaffordable Care Act,'' as my good friend Congressman Kucinich said yesterday.

Further, with over 70,000 pages of new regulations in the last 5 years, the compliance cost for small business is staggering. We do not simply need a delay in the employer mandate, we need a repeal of the employer mandate.

On education, I can tell you as a poor kid, by the time I was in the fourth grade, I had already attended four schools. It is very difficult for us to fund the right school with the sometimes transient nature of poverty where you have to move a lot. I believe the system and the people closest to the child are in the best position to provide the highest quality of education for that child. So there is no way a bureaucrat in Washington, DC, can better educate a child in Lexington County than that child's parents and the teachers who are so involved in that education.

We need a national debate on education. Parents need more choices so their kids will have a chance. So let's debate it. Let's debate charter schools, let's debate public school choice, private school choice, tax credits, home schools. Whatever it takes to improve our education system should be on the table for discussion.

Let me close with this. If we create a competitive Tax Code and a fair, sensible regulatory environment, as well as a world-class education system, we will create the best economy known to man, as we have in times past. You see, the best and the brightest days are still ahead for America. Our strongest moments, our strongest stands, are still in our future. I believe in the greatness of America because I have experienced the goodness of her people. In America, an ordinary guy like me can be blessed with an extraordinary opportunity like this. Thank you, and God bless America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I congratulate our good friend from South Carolina on his maiden speech and the opportunity, obviously, to learn more about his inspirational early life and the bilingual nature of his beginning and the way he interpreted those lessons both from his mother and from his mentor into the extraordinary success he has had both in the private sector and the public sector. I wish to say, on behalf of my colleagues, it is an honor to serve with him.

Mr. SCOTT. I thank the Leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I want to join the Republican leader in expressing my appreciation of Senator SCOTT today, not just for his maiden speech but because we have new pages on the Senate floor and so it is their first time, and I see the bright eyes of these young people looking up to the Senator as he gives his maiden speech as he talks about the next generation.

I was thinking a bit, because I saw an editorial the Senator had written published Sunday a week ago—''IRS targeting scandal shows need for reform''—and so I was happy to hear the Senator talking about some of the things happening there, because he talks about responsibility, accountability, and the kinds of things we heard in his maiden speech today. He writes in a concise way, also a courageous way, so I want to join the Republican leader in welcoming the new Senator and his comments, and I look forward to working with him for many years to come.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. SCOTT. I thank my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in congratulating our recently arrived colleague from South Carolina on his maiden speech. It strikes me we all want the same thing pretty much. We want an opportunity and we want to make sure our kids get the best quality education so they can compete in a global economy. But to be honest about it, we do have different approaches on how to achieve those goals, it strikes me, across the aisle.

There are those who believe the government should play a bigger, more expansive role, and they have their own ideas and approach; and there are those of us who believe in limited government, and that that is most consistent with individual freedom and the opportunity to strive, to work hard, and to succeed. It is that notion of earned success. So we have a different approach, and I know the Senator from South Carolina agrees with that.

I also believe the Senator from South Carolina has been a tremendous addition because of his background and his upbringing. Some people might say we don't need more lawyers in the Senate, and he certainly is not one of those, but he is somebody who has succeeded in the private sector, been marvelously successful now both in the House and here in the Senate. So it is great to have him as part of the Senate and contributing his unique perspective and being able to articulate as he does so well how small-government, limited-government principles apply to that concept of earned success that all of us want not only for ourselves but for our families as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in complimenting the Senator from South Carolina, No. 1, because of his work ethic. I have the privilege of being the ranking Republican member of the committee that has maybe the broadest jurisdiction, the most diversity of any of our committees—Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions—and I have observed how hard Senator SCOTT has worked and how well prepared he has been in his first several months as a Senator. He has spoken out on labor issues, he has made a major contribution to the debate we had on whether we need a national school board or local control on

elementary and secondary education. When other Senators are doing other things, he is right there at the committee hearings. So he has made a quiet, effective, principled, studious contribution to the Senate, in my experience, these first few months, and I am delighted to have him here.

He has done so well I have invited him to come to Tennessee on Friday to speak to one of the largest gatherings we have annually in the State, and he has agreed to come, and we are grateful for that.

Finally, I would compliment him on one other thing. Sometimes I like to tell stories about the person for whom I came to the Senate to work—Senator Howard Baker. When Senator Baker first came in 1967, I would say to the Senator from South Carolina, the Republican leader was his father-in-law Everett Dirksen. Senator Baker made his maiden speech, probably from a back row about like Senator SCOTT is making his, and his father-in-law was sitting right where Senator MCCONNELL sits, listening to the whole thing. It went on, and it went on, and it went on for nearly an hour. After it was over, Senator Dirksen came over to Senator Baker, and Senator Baker said to his father-in-law: Well, how did I do? Senator Dirksen, the Republican leader, said to the new Senator: Maybe, Howard, you should occasionally try to enjoy the luxury of an unexpressed thought.

So I congratulate Senator SCOTT for his succinct maiden address. He is not only effective, studious, and diligent, he knows how to speak his words clearly and succinctly, and it is wonderful to see him.

Mr. SCOTT. I thank the Senator.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST ROBERT A. PIERCE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, my colleagues and I are often at odds when trying to solve some of our Nation's most pressing and difficult problems. However, one thing we can all agree on is that the men and women who wear our Nation's uniforms are selfless heroes who embody the American spirit of courage and patriotism. We must continue to honor the sacrifice and service of our troops who have fought to protect and defend our freedoms. Today, I am here to pay my respects to Army SPC Robert A. Pierce, an Arkansas soldier who gave his life while in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Specialist Pierce graduated from Mansfield High School and spent his free time perfecting his steak cooking abilities at the Bulldog Diner in Greenwood, AK. A former coworker described these as ''the best steaks ever.''

Specialist Pierce's friends say the money he earned at his part-time job went to fixing his truck. His love of auto mechanics led him to do most of the work himself. Specialist Pierce's family said he joined the military in 2011 to make a difference.

He served in South Korea before his assignment at Fort Campbell. He was a member of A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY. SPC Robert Pierce was only 20 when he gave his life for his country last month while on patrol in Afghanistan. Specialist Pierce is a true American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice.

I ask my colleagues to keep his wife Christian and the rest of his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I humbly offer my sincerest gratitude for his patriotism and selfless sacrifice.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH C. MCQUAID

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on Monday, July 1, 2013, Joseph C. McQuaid was laid to rest, with full military honors, in the Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, CO.

A proud World War II veteran, Joseph ''Big Joe'' McQuaid will rest beside his brother John ''Hootcher'' McQuaid, also a World War II veteran. Joe was one of the most unique, memorable persons I have known in my lifetime. He was also my brother-in-law.

Joe was born on March 16, 1919 in the family farmhouse near Stuart, IA. A proud Irishman, Joe always noted that his birthday was one day before St. Patrick's Day. Joe, his two brothers, and sister were born and raised in a loving, but very poor, family. His father ''Willie'' was a self-taught, accomplished musician, playing the fiddle and piano in local bands around Iowa.

From an early age, Joe was known as ''Big Joe'' because he was a big bear of a man, standing 6 feet 4 inches and tipping the scale around 240 pounds, all muscle and bone. He used to show off his strength by tearing phonebooks and decks of cards in half as if they were pieces of paper. This always impressed a lot of young kids.

Joe also liked to balance heavy, unwieldy objects, such as lawnmowers, on his chin. It wasn't only heavy objects he could balance. He is the only person I have ever seen who could balance a straw broom on his nose. He could entertain a group of kids for hours by doing his balancing tricks.

When the Great Depression hit the Midwest, Joe's family, like so many others, was in dire economic straits. So Joe, at the age of 16, went to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps, the CCC. The legal age was 18, but because of Joe's size and the poverty at home, Joe said he was 18 and thus joined the CCC. Young men left home, lived in CCC camps, worked on building dams and dikes, cleared roads in winter, cleaned up after floods, and created State parks and recreation areas. CCC camps were run in a semimilitary fashion.

Joe worked at the CCC camps for 3 years and was paid $36 a month. As Joe remembered, he sent $30 home and kept $6 for himself. He often said the CCC was President Roosevelt's best program.

The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Joe went right down to the recruiting office and signed up for military duty. He joined the Navy and spent most of the war years as a Boatswain Mate First Class on destroyer escorts, escorting troop ships and cargo ships the United States to Russia, England, and North Africa.

His ship, the USS *Marchand*, sank several German U-boats and rescued survivors of cargo and troopships sunk by enemy torpedoes. Joe was present at Normandy on D-day, again protecting the troopships and big cruisers from enemy submarines.

After the war in Europe ended, Joe was sent to the Pacific as a Boatswain Mate on a troopship headed to the Philippines. During his voyage, Joe's ship was attacked by Japanese kamikaze planes. As the acting Chief Boatswain Mate, Joe got all the anti-aircraft guns manned, taking a 50 caliber mount himself. They brought down all the enemy aircraft, and not one hit the ship. Joe remembered how one crashed in the water so close that ocean spray and parts of the aircraft landed on the ship's deck.

Sometime after that, on their way to the Philippines, Joe ordered—through his boatswain pipe—all hands on deck for an important announcement from the captain. The captain said that after dropping two atom bombs on Japan that wiped out two cities, President Harry S Truman said the Japanese surrendered and the war was over. There was unrestrained cheering and backslapping among the troops and sailors. Joe asked the captain if he should use his boatswain pipe to call them to order, and the captain said ''No, no, let them go.'' They refueled at sea, and headed back to Honolulu.

After nearly 4 straight years at sea, dodging and sinking U-boats in the North Atlantic, surviving kamikaze attacks in the Pacific, ''Big Joe'' was back in Iowa with a chest full of medals and his beloved boatswain pipe.

For his life thereafter, Joe could keep you entranced with his war stories and what shipboard life was like in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic.

Joe was so proud of his service and his fellow World War II comrades. He was truly one of the ''Greatest Generation'' of young Americans.

Joe passed away on January 31, 2013, with his loving wife June by his side. He was just about 2 months shy of his 94th birthday.

Up to his 93rd birthday, Joe always marched every year in the Veteran's Day parade wearing his original World War II Navy blues, a white sailor's cap jauntily placed on his head, a chest full of ribbons and medals, and his cherished boatswain's pipe hung around his neck. At age 88 he participated in one of the honor flights from Denver to Washington, DC, for World War II veterans to see the World War II Memorial.

After my mother died and Joe had married my sister Sylvia, I went to live with them, and Joe became almost a surrogate father to me. I was 13 years old. As we both grew older, we took many trips together and he became more like my older brother. Joe was so unique. He was a gifted observer of human behavior and interactions. He could fix anything. He made beautiful objects out of wood, some of which I still have in my home. He was also the best storyteller I have ever met.

Many years after my sister died of cancer, Joe met and married June, a talented artist in her own right, and they had a wonderful, loving life together.

Joe is survived by his wife June; his sister Mary Ann; his four children, Theresa, Joe Kelly, Danny, and Mary; four grandchildren, Sean, Ryan, Erin, and Ciera; and four step grandchildren, Terry, Kristen, Shauna, and Dawn.

''Big Joe'' led a full, challenging, and interesting life. He was truly one of our ''Greatest Generation,'' a true patriot who loved his country, his family, and his many friends.

He helped to make America a better nation for all.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, we are now deep in the heart of summer vacation for millions of families and students all across this country. It is a wonderful time, something families look forward to—maybe some parents more so than others. But it is a very strange summer in Newtown, CT. It is the first summer that 20 families are waking up every morning without a 6- or 7-year-old they planned on spending days at the beach or afternoons at the park with or mornings getting ready for what would have been their second-grade year. It is a very different summer, this summer in Newtown, CT.

A lot of people ask me: How is the community recovering? How are they coming back? And while there is some rebound happening, it is still very much a community in crisis. When students go back to school in the fall, they are not going to be going back to Sandy Hook Elementary School. That school is going to be knocked down. There is no way families, teachers, and administrators can return to that place. So once again this fall the students of Sandy Hook Elementary School will be bused one town over to a school that was, up until January of this last year, a place none of them had seen, and they will once again be in a year of transition—once again, for many families, still a year of crisis.

I am not sure any of those families could imagine in the days and weeks after the shooting on December 14 of last year that when they sent their kids back to school—their surviving brothers and sisters—in the fall of 2013, that in that intervening time, in response to the most vicious mass school shooting in this country's history, the response from the Congress would be nothing, zippo, zero.

This is a summer of crisis in Newtown. It will be another difficult fall. But what leaves people in Newtown shaking their heads is that this place has done absolutely nothing; that when their kids return back to school, the laws of this Nation will be no different, will do nothing more to protect their sons and daughters when they and millions of other kids across the country return to school in September.

And it is not as though we have not seen since Newtown more evidence for why we need to change our laws. I have come to the floor virtually every week since this horrific incident to remind people that the tragedy has not ended; that since December 14, 5,893 people have been senselessly killed by guns. Since December 14, 5,893 people have been killed through gun violence.

I think we should continue to talk about who these people are; that we should give voices to these victims, so that it is not just the 20 6-year-old and 7-year-old children we have all heard so much about—about Jack Pinto and Dylan Hockley, and Noah Pozner and Grace McDonnell. We know these kids, and I will continue to talk about who they were and who they could have been, but every single day we lose about 30 more people to gun violence.

Last June we saw a mass shooting that was eerily similar to the one in Newtown—a mass shooting in Santa Monica, CA, in which five people were killed; the father and the brother of the gunman, but also three completely unrelated and innocent bystanders who just happened to be in and around the school when this young man, 23 years old, deeply disturbed, started firing, almost indiscriminately and randomly, on his way to and at the campus.

It was eerily similar because, once again, it was an assault weapon, an AR–15 model, the weapon of choice for mass assailants in this country these days. And once again he had high-capacity magazines. Reportedly, 1,300 rounds of ammunition were on his person. Every case is unique, but over and over these mass shootings are occurring with the same type of weapons and the same type of high-capacity ammunition. Yet we do nothing to acknowledge this trend.

Let me talk a second about who these people were who were killed that day in California, because they have stories that are not unlike the 5,800-plus stories I could tell on the floor, if we had time, with respect to the people who have died since December 14.

Carlos Navarro Franco was 68 years old. He was the groundskeeper at the college for 22 years. He was dedicated to two things above all—that college and his family. That is what the president of the college said after his death—everything Carlos did was for the college and for his family. He was truly a family man, the president of the college said. He was a dedicated husband, a father, and an integral part of Santa Monica's college family. He dedicated his work to the campus grounds and was enjoyed by students and visitors for two decades.

He was with his daughter that day. Marcela Franco was 26 years old and pursuing a degree in psychology at California State University. She had registered to take summer classes at the school where her father worked and she was on her way with her father to buy textbooks that day. She initially survived the gunfire but she never regained consciousness after the attack. She was described by her aunt as smart, beautiful, and outgoing. Her aunt said, ''She was daddy's girl.'' So the blessing is they went together.

Margarita Gomez was the same age as Carlos Navarro Franco. She lost her life that day. She was fondly referred to on campus as the ''recycle lady'' because she could be seen almost every weekday walking around campus, rolling her cart, picking up used bottles and cans. She would plop them in her cart and then take them to get recycled. Obviously, most people thought she was homeless and that she was collecting these bottles and cans as a means to be able to survive, but that wasn't the case. Margarita had actually been diagnosed with diabetes, and it was her doctor's recommendation that she exercise more. She was also an active member of a senior Latino club that met every Thursday at the Virginia Avenue park and she was very interested in the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital cause—a charity the senior Latino club happened to give money to. So she put these two things

together—a recommendation she should exercise more and an interest in helping this club and the charity it was affiliated with—and decided she would take this cart around town for exercise, pick up cans and bottles, recycle them, and then donate the money to charity.

The ''recycle lady,'' Margarita Gomez, was walking around campus that day picking up cans and bottles so she could donate the money to help sick kids, and she was gunned down by an assailant using an assault weapon with high-capacity ammunition clips. It is a pretty unbelievable story. These three special individuals, along with the father and the son, are among the 5,893.

But it is not just the mass shootings that we are talking about. Frankly, the vast majority of these killings are one-off deals over some of the most petty arguments or disputes one could imagine. But because guns are so easily found, so readily accessible in our neighborhoods, these silly arguments end up in deaths, such as one that happened in my State of Connecticut just a couple weeks ago on June 16.

Isaac Smith was a couple days away from graduating from New Britain High School. He was a great athlete, played football and baseball, and he was hoping to continue playing those sports after high school when he went to college. He apparently talked to his friends a lot about how proud he was going to be to graduate.

On the night of June 16, police received a call around midnight about gunshots. They arrived at the scene and found Isaac Smith—a couple days away from graduation—in his driveway with a gunshot wound to the back of his head. Police are still trying to figure out what happened. Apparently, he was involved in a transaction for a pair of high-end sneakers when something went wrong and the other guy he was either selling the sneakers to or buying the sneakers from, 26-year-old Jonathan Gibbs of Meriden, shot him—over a pair of sneakers.

These are who these 5,893 people are: They are victims of mass violence, they are victims of senseless gunfire, and they all share something in common. They deserve a response from the Senate and the House of Representatives. They deserve us doing something more than nothing.

At least the Senate brought up a bill on the floor earlier this year. We got 55 votes for a bill that wasn't perfect, but it at least said criminals shouldn't have guns and that we should have a system that makes sure that is the case; that gun trafficking—when someone buys a messload of guns legally and then sells them illegally on the streets of our cities—should probably be a Federal crime; that we should have more resources in our mental health system to take care of people who want and need help. We got 55 votes for that, which is pretty unbelievable given the fact that 90 percent of the American public support all of those things. One would think we could have gotten more than 55 votes.

The House of Representatives has done nothing. It hasn't even had a debate.

These numbers will continue to mount. Next week I will be down here, and the number will probably be north of 6,000. Then, after the August recess, it will be creeping up to 7,000. We can't get rid of every single one of these deaths.

I will admit to you that Jonathan Gibbs who shot Isaac Smith was a legal gun owner. He didn't even actually have a criminal history. The fact is, while not every single one of these deaths is preventable, many of them are.

So I will continue to come down and talk about these victims with the hope that someday—perhaps this fall, perhaps next year, perhaps the year after—we can take action in the Senate that will maybe not stop the growth of this number but will at least slow its acceleration.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOANS

Ms. WARREN. The interest rate on student loans doubled on July 1. Because Congress failed to act, our lowest income students are now paying twice as much on these new loans. While students are paying more, the Federal Government is boosting its own profits—$51 billion in profits from the student loan programs in 2013 alone. This is just plain wrong.

The government is making obscene profits on these loans—profits we can and should cut back on to help our kids who are struggling to pay for college. But Republicans have repeatedly blocked our efforts to pass a short-term fix that would save students from higher interest rates.

This week the Senate will vote to fix this problem. The bill, Keep Student Loans Affordable Act, was introduced by Senators JACK REED and KAY HAGAN. It would drop the rate on direct student loans back down to 3.4 percent for 1 year, retroactively as of July 1, and give Congress time to develop a plan to do the three things we need to do: Reform student loan interest rates on new loans, refinance $1 trillion in existing debt, and lower college costs for all of our kids.

Republicans have a different approach. Despite the obscene profits of the current program, they propose to make even more money from students. Their current proposal would bring in an extra $1 billion in profits off the backs of our students.

Listen to the numbers. New loans will produce $184 billion in profits for the U.S. Government over the next 10 years. That includes the 6.8 percent interest on direct loans, all the borrowing costs, all the administrative costs, and all the bad debt losses for the program.

Let me say that again: The new student loans, including direct loans at 6.8 percent, will make $184 billion in profits for the government over the next 10 years—and the Republican solution is to increase those profits for the U.S. Government. In other words, their solution to the rising interest rate problem is to make students pay even more.

Some of my colleagues are telling students the plan they have is a great deal. But their argument is the same argument that was used by the slick operators who sold teaser rate mortgages and the ones who sold zero interest rate credit cards. Sure, the first couple of years will be cheaper, but they don't want anyone to look at what happens after that.

Fortunately, our students are smarter than that. They read the fine print. They know in the end this debate boils down to simple math—math that our students understand, even if some people in Congress wish they didn't.

Our students sent a letter to Majority Leader REID and Minority Leader MCCONNELL with a clear message: A bad deal is worse than no deal at all. Our students need a plan that costs them less money, not a plan that costs them more.

I talk a lot about math, but the Senate's decision about student loans is a decision about our values and a decision about how we build a future. Investing in our students will allow them to get good jobs and give them a shot to make it in America, but that same investment will also create new industries and grow the economy for everyone.

We shouldn't treat our students like a profit center. We shouldn't ask them to pay an extra tax to go to school. And we shouldn't try to trick them by shuffling numbers around, hitting them with teaser rates, and declaring a problem is solved while the students just keep paying more and more.

There are real problems in higher education today: Skyrocketing college costs, historic levels of student debt, and high borrowing rates. It is going to take time to develop a solution that works, and there is no magic math that will make student loan profits disappear or make college tuition shrink without some sacrifice. But right now, students are the only ones who are sacrificing. They are giving up the dream of owning a home or being able to retire just so they can keep paying for college.

Congress can ease the burden on our students, and we should be committed to doing just that because this is how

we build a stronger middle class. This is how we build a better future for our entire country. It is a first step, but it is a good one.

Congress can pass the Keep Student Loans Affordable Act. It is a short-term patch to keep interest rates on new loans from doubling for 1 year while Congress develops a plan to reform student loans and to make college more affordable. I support the measure, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF GREGORY ALAN PHILLIPS TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gregory Alan Phillips, of Wyoming, to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I don't wish to in any way cut into the time of the senior Senator from Wyoming, but I hope once he and Senator BARRASSO have finished speaking—once their time is consumed—we might agree that the vote will still be at 5:30, if possible, or as close to that time as possible.

Our Constitution provides the Senate an important role to play in providing advice to the President and in voting on whether to confirm nominees for our third branch of government. Last month, we were reminded of the importance of these confirmation votes when the Supreme Court handed down several narrowly-decided opinions that are already impacting millions of Americans. As a senior member of this chamber, I have voted on the confirmation of every one of the nine justices currently serving. Since only a tiny percentage of cases brought in Federal court ever end up at the Supreme Court, the Federal courts of appeal are often the courts of last resort for most disputes. I am glad that today we are finally voting to confirm another appellate nominee.

Before the Memorial Day recess, the minority leader asked during a floor debate when Gregory Phillips, the Wyoming nominee to the Tenth Circuit, would receive a vote. When the majority leader immediately offered a vote on that nominee, the minority leader demurred without giving any reason. Senate Republicans have now finally decided to allow the vote on Gregory Phillips to move forward, but there was no reason for this delay in his confirmation vote.

Gregory Phillips is currently the attorney general of Wyoming, a position to which he was appointed by Wyoming's Republican Governor. From 2010 to 2011 he worked in the Wyoming attorney general's office as the special assistant to the Governor for legislative affairs. Prior to working in the Wyoming attorney general's office, he was an assistant U.S. attorney in Wyoming, and spent 14 years in private practice. Attorney general Phillips has also served as a part-time deputy county attorney, an assistant municipal judge and as a state senator. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Alan B. Johnson of the U.S. district court for the District of Wyoming. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Mr. Phillips ''well qualified,'' its highest rating.

At his Judiciary Committee hearing, Attorney General Phillips was introduced by his two Republican home State Senators, Senator ENZI and Senator BARRASSO, both of whom strongly support his nomination. He was reported unanimously by the Judiciary Committee nearly 3 months ago. While his confirmation vote has not been delayed quite as long as votes on most of President Obama's nominees, he could and should have been confirmed last May when the majority leader offered.

With the confirmation of Attorney General Phillips, there will be 10 active judges on the Tenth Circuit. According to the most recent data, this means that the number of pending appeals per active judge on that court will drop from 150 to 135. I mention this because another appellate court, the DC Circuit, currently has 177 pending appeals per active judge. Despite that higher caseload, some Senate Republicans argue that the DC Circuit's caseload is too low, and that three of its judgeships should be eliminated. I suspect that many, if not all, of these Senators will vote to confirm Attorney General Phillips, even though his confirmation means that the Tenth Circuit will now have the lowest caseload in the country, just as earlier this year they supported the confirmation of Jane Kelly to the Eighth Circuit, which gave that court the lowest caseload in the country, and just as they supported the confirmation of Robert Bacharach to the Tenth Circuit, which gave that court the lowest caseload in the country. I hope those Senators will reconsider their double standard and not play politics with an independent branch of government.

Some of the same Senate Republicans who are opposing President Obama's three nominees to the DC Circuit are also criticizing him for making too few nominations and somehow claiming that many vacancies without a nominee cannot possibly be the fault of Senate Republicans. I recall that before President Obama made a single judicial nomination, all Senate Republicans sent him a letter threatening to filibuster his nominees if he did not consult Republican home State Senators. They cannot have it both ways.

I take very seriously my responsibility to make recommendations when we have vacancies in Vermont, whether the President is a Democrat or a Republican, and other Senators should do the same. After all, if there are not enough judges in our home States, it is our own constituents who suffer. It should be only a matter of weeks or months, not years, for Senators to make recommendations.

Unfortunately, in some States it appears as if there is no effort being made to recommend qualified nominees to the administration. There are three district vacancies in Georgia without nominees, and the oldest is over 4 years old. There are three district vacancies in Kentucky without nominees, and the oldest is over a year and a half old. There are seven district vacancies in Texas without nominees, and the oldest is over 4½ years old. Three months ago the Senators from Texas announced a nominations commission, but it is my understanding that it is still not accepting applications. If Senators want new judgeships in their States, they should be working especially hard to ensure that all existing ones are filled. Republican Senators who demanded to be consulted on nominations should live up to their responsibilities and fulfill their constitutional obligation to advise the President on nominations. They should follow the example of Democratic Senators: the administration has received recommendations for all current district vacancies in States represented by two Democratic Senators.

Moreover, the failure of some Republican Senators to help fill vacancies in their own States does not excuse their unwillingness to complete action on the nominations the President has made. I regret that I must correct the record, again, on how Senate Republicans have obstructed judicial nominees over the past 4 years. The continued assertion by Senate Republicans that 99 percent of President Obama's nominees have been confirmed is not accurate. President Obama has nominated 243 individuals to be circuit or district judges, and 197 have been confirmed by the Senate. That is 81 percent, not 99 percent. By way of comparison, at the same point in President Bush's second term, July 8 of his fifth year in office, President Bush had nominated 10 fewer people to be circuit or district judges, but had seen 215 of them confirmed, which is 18 more confirmations. The truth is that 92 percent

of President Bush's judicial nominees had been confirmed at the same point, 11 percentage points more than have been allowed for President Obama. That is an apples-to-apples comparison, and it demonstrates the undeniable fact that the Senate has confirmed a lower number and a lower percentage of President Obama's nominees than President Bush's nominees at the same time in their Presidencies.

I noted at the end of last year, while Senate Republicans were insisting on delaying confirmations of 15 judicial nominees that should have taken place in wrap up, we would not likely be allowed to complete work on them until May. That was precisely the Republican plan. So when Senate Republicans now seek to claim credit for their confirmations in President Obama's second term, they are inflating the confirmation statistics. The truth is that only 11 circuit and district confirmations have taken place this year that are not attributable to those nominations Senate Republicans needlessly held over from last year. To use a baseball analogy, if a baseball player goes 0 for 9, and then gets a hit, we do not say he is an all star because he is batting 1.000 in his last at bat. We recognize that he is just 1 for 10, and not a very good hitter, nor would a fair calculation of hits or home runs allow a player to credit those that occurred in one game to the next because it would make his stats look better.

If President Obama's nominees were receiving the same treatment as President Bush's, today's vote would bring us to 215 confirmations, not 198, and vacancies would be far lower. The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service has noted that it will require 29 more district and circuit confirmations this year to match President Bush's 5-year total. Even with the confirmations finally concluded during the first 6 months of this year, Senate Republicans have still not allowed President Obama to match even the record of President Bush's first term. Even with an extra 6 months, we are still eight confirmations behind where we were at the end of 2004.

The assertion by some Senate Republicans that ''there is no difference in how this President's nominees are being treated versus how President Bush's nominees were treated'' is simply not supported by the facts. Compared to the same point in the Bush administration, there have been more nominees filibustered, fewer confirmations, and longer wait times for nominees, even though President Obama has nominated more people and there are more vacancies. And while Senate Republicans have taken to comparing President Obama's fifth year to President Bush's fifth year, the fact is that there were fewer confirmations then because we had done such good work in President Bush's first term, in particular the 100 confirmations we achieved during the 17 months in 2001 and 2002 when I was chairman of the Judiciary Committee. In fact, from June 9, 2005, until October 20, 2005, there were no consensus judicial nominees on the Executive Calendar. So the only reason there have been more votes this year than in 2005 is that, contrary to Republicans' assertions, we have had more nominees this year, mostly because they were held over from last year by Senate Republicans.

While the routine and sustained delays over the past 4 years are without precedent, Republicans point to June 2004 as the one time that there were a number of President Bush's nominees pending on the floor. I recall that in early 2004, President Bush had bypassed the Senate and recess appointed two controversial nominees to be circuit judges and that around that time we learned that Republican committee staff hacked into a shared server to pilfer Democratic files. Still, we were able to clear nominations by confirming more than 20 consensus nominees in just 1 month. There is nothing like that to explain the years of backlogged judicial nominees during this administration.

Context matters. Anyone can point to this example or that example, but when you look at the whole picture, it is clear that President Obama's nominees have faced unprecedented delays on the Senate floor and that his nominees have been less likely to be confirmed than President Bush's at the same point.

But the context of these statistics also matters. Judicial nominations should not be about partisan tit for tat. Judicial vacancies impact millions of people, all across America, who depend on our Federal courts for justice. When you compare the Senate's record from 2001 to 2005, and from 2009 to 2013, it is clear that we are not meeting the standard we set for how quickly the Senate can act to fill judicial vacancies. Throughout my career, whether as a prosecutor or as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I have fought for justice, and to ensure that people have access to justice and can have their day in court. That is why my recent statements have discussed not only the delays in the nominations process, but also the impact of sequestration cuts on our legal system. I continue to hear from judges and other legal professionals about the serious problems sequestration either has caused or will cause if we do not fix it.

Chief Justice John Roberts recently noted that sequestration ''hit [the judiciary] particularly hard. . . . When we have sustained cuts that means people have to be furloughed or worse and that has a more direct impact on the services that we can provide.'' I ask unanimous consent that this article titled ''Chief Justice Roberts: Sequester cuts hitting federal judiciary 'hard' '' be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my statement. We should all be doing everything we can to help our coequal branch meet the Constitution's promise of justice for all Americans.

The impact of sequestration on the third branch is compounded by the high level of judicial vacancies. I know we can do better because we have done better. Each day that Senate Republicans refuse to confirm the qualified judicial nominees who have been reviewed and voted on by the Judiciary Committee is another day that a judge could have been working to resolve disputes. Hard-working Americans should not have to wait years to have their cases decided.

Even if it were true, it is not good enough to say that the Senate is treating President Obama's nominees the same as it treated President Bush's. The real question is whether the Senate is meeting its duty to do everything it reasonably can to ensure the American people have access to justice. When Senate Republicans refuse to make recommendations for nominees, and then delay votes on consensus nominees, they are not somehow hurting the President, they are hurting the American people and our justice system.

Today, Attorney General Phillips will finally be confirmed by the Senate, and there are many more nominees the Senate should consider in the coming weeks. Tomorrow, the Senate Judiciary Committee will hear from James Comey, who President Obama has nominated to serve as FBI Director. Later this week the committee will begin the process of considering the first of three current nominees to the DC Circuit. The Judiciary Committee is also scheduled this week to vote on the nomination of B. Todd Jones to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The ATF has been without a Senate-confirmed Director since 2006. Senate Republicans refused to allow a vote on President Bush's nominee to lead the ATF and I hope they will not attempt to do the same again. Nominees to lead the Labor Department and the Environmental Protection Agency are also awaiting our consideration. I hope the Senate will be able to come together and confirm these worthy nominees without the delay that has befallen so many nominees in the past 4 years.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Hill, June 29, 2013]

CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: SEQUESTER CUTS HITTING FEDERAL JUDICIARY ''HARD''

(By Ben Geman)

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts on Saturday said the sequester is hurting the judicial branch and that he's hopeful Congress will provide flexibility.

Roberts, speaking at a conference in West Virginia, noted that the judicial branch of government overall is less than one percent of the federal budget.

''You get a whole branch of government under the Constitution for relative pennies, and the idea that we have to be swept along because it is good public policy to cut everybody—I am not commenting on that policy at all—but the notion that we should just be swept along with it I think is really unfounded,'' Roberts said of the across-the-board budget cuts.

''The cuts hit us particularly hard because we are made up of people. That is what the judicial branch is. It is not like we are the Pentagon where you can slow up a particular procurement program or a lot of the other agencies. When we have sustained cuts that mean people have to be furloughed or worse and that has a more direct impact on the services that we can provide,'' he added, speaking at the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Roberts said the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts is working with congressional appropriators ''to get them to go to bat for us,'' and that he's hopeful. ''I hope we are able to make an effective case for why need a little bit more flexibility than others,'' Roberts said.

And, in a bit of humor, he tried some obvious flattery.

''I just want to say publicly, that I think our appropriators in Congress are the best legislators since Henry Clay and Daniel Webster, and you can quote me on that if you'd like,'' Roberts said.

In other remarks, Roberts said the Supreme Court justices are asking too many questions from the bench during oral arguments.

''We do overdo it,'' Roberts said. ''The bench has gotten more and more aggressive.'' He noted that lawyers trying to present their arguments ''feel cheated sometimes.''

He said that justices do not talk about cases before the arguments. So they use questions as a way to ''bring out points that we think our colleagues ought to know about,'' and debate one another through questions to lawyers making arguments.

But he said, ''That is an explanation. It is not meant as an excuse.''

''I do think we have gone too far,'' Roberts said. ''It is too much and I think we do need to address it a little bit.''

Roberts comments came after a busy week for the court, with justices handing down rulings striking down a key portion of the Voting Rights Act and ruling the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I support the nomination of Gregory Alan Phillips to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit. This is the 27th judicial confirmation this year. With today's confirmation, the Senate will have confirmed 198 lower court nominees; we have defeated two. That is 198–2, which is an outstanding record. That is a success rate of 99 percent.

We have been doing these at a fast pace. During the last Congress, we confirmed more judges than any Congress since the 103rd Congress, which was 1993–1994.

This year, the beginning of President Obama's second term, we have already confirmed more judges than were confirmed in the entire first year of President Bush's second term. Let me emphasize that again—we've already confirmed more nominees this year than we did during the entirety of 2005, the first year of President Bush's second term.

After today, only four article III judges remain on the executive calendar—three district nominees and one circuit nominee. Yet somehow Senate Democrats cite this as evidence of obstructionism.

Compare that to the calendar of June 2004, when 30 judicial nominations were on the calendar—10 circuit and 20 district. I don't recall any Senate Democrats complaining about how many nominations were piling up on the calendar.

Nor do I remember protestations from my colleagues on the other side that judicial nominees were moving too slowly. Some of those nominees had been reported out more than a year earlier and most were pending for months. Some of them never got an up or down vote.

The bottom line is that the Senate is processing the President's nominees exceptionally fairly. President Obama certainly is being treated more fairly in the beginning of his second term than Senate Democrats treated President Bush in 2005. It is not clear to me how allowing more votes so far this year than President Bush got in an entire year amounts to ''unprecedented delays and obstruction.'' Yet that is the complaint we hear over and over from the other side.

After today's votes, there will be 84 vacancies in the Federal judiciary. But 53 of those spots are without a nominee. How is it Republicans' fault that the President has not sent 53 nominees to the committee? Obviously, common sense ought to tell you that we can't act on nominees who are not presented to the Senate.

I just wanted to set the record straight—again—before we vote on this nomination.

Mr. Phillips received his B.S. in 1983 and his J.D. in 1987, both from the University of Wyoming. Upon graduation, he served as a law clerk from 1987 to 1989 to the Honorable Alan B. Johnson, U.S. district judge for the District of Wyoming. After completion of his clerkship, he worked in private practice in the town of Evanston. There he practiced a wide variety of civil law, including personal injury, wills and estates, real property, contracts, worker's compensation, employment, domestic relations, and bankruptcy. For a few months during this time, Mr. Phillips served as a part-time deputy county attorney, mostly prosecuting misdemeanor crimes until a new county attorney could be elected.

In 1998, Mr. Phillips and Matthew H. Mead, presently serving as Governor of Wyoming, opened a law practice in Cheyenne, focusing on Medicaid, insurance, banking, and Federal tort claims law. Mr. Phillips served as a special attorney general during this period, handling a Medicaid third-party and estate reimbursement for Wyoming.

Mr. Phillips joined the U.S. Attorney's office in 2003 as an assistant U.S. attorney, where he first worked on both civil and criminal issues before shifting to exclusively criminal work. In 2011, Mr. Phillips was appointed by Governor Mead to be attorney general of the State of Wyoming. As attorney general, he manages five law divisions, overseeing arguments before the Wyoming Supreme Court and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. LEAHY. So I can help speed up things, I yield back all time on the Democratic side and yield to the senior Senator from Wyoming.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for expediting the confirmation of Greg Phillips.

I rise this afternoon to add strong support for the confirmation of Gregory Alan Phillips to serve as a judge on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. I believe Mr. Phillips has all the characteristics necessary to serve as a Federal appellate judge. I worked with Mr. Phillips in the Wyoming Legislature and can say with confidence that he is recognized throughout the Wyoming legal community as a talented, respected, and thoughtful attorney.

This vote is also important because the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals has experienced a number of judicial vacancies recently. In February the Senate confirmed Judge Bacharach of Oklahoma to the panel, and we now have the opportunity to fill another vacancy so the Tenth Circuit can continue its work.

Mr. Phillips has served as Wyoming's attorney general since 2011. The attorney general is not an elected position in Wyoming, and it is important to note that Mr. Phillips was appointed by Governor Mead, although they do not share the same party affiliation. This speaks tremendously to Mr. Phillips' talent and legal reputation. Governor Mead and former U.S. attorney comments that Greg is a ''first-rate legal thinker, a tireless worker and has an abiding sense of fair play.'' Governor Mead goes on to say that if confirmed, all those who appear before Mr. Phillips will find ''a judge fully prepared, engaged, and respectful to all.''

Mr. Phillips was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee with a unanimous vote on April 18. The fact that he now stands for a vote after only being nominated in January is a credit to his abilities and strong bipartisan support. I thank Chairman LEAHY, Ranking Member GRASSLEY, and members of the Judiciary Committee for reviewing and moving this nomination along so quickly.

It is no surprise that the American Bar Association unanimously gave Mr. Phillips its highest rating. Greg has extensive experience practicing law as a deputy county attorney and in private practice. Before becoming Wyoming's attorney general, Mr. Phillips served 7 years as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Wyoming, handling criminal prosecutions and appeals. Greg has extensive experience arguing in Federal court, including taking nearly 20 cases before the Tenth Circuit.

Mr. Phillips studied economics at the University of Wyoming and graduated with honors from the Wyoming College of Law, where he was on the Law Review. Immediately following law school

Mr. Phillips served as a clerk for U.S. district judge Alan Johnson of Wyoming. Judge Johnson writes that Greg is ''devoted to the rule of law and will honor the remarkable judicial officers who preceded him.'' Specifically, Judge Johnson notes that Mr. Phillips' thorough study of the U.S. sentencing guidelines, experience as a Federal criminal prosecutor, and understanding of State and Federal legal issues will serve him well on the Tenth Circuit.

Mr. Phillips also has strong support from his colleagues from around the Nation. Thirty-four attorneys general wrote the Senate Judiciary Committee in March expressing their support for the nomination. I am told there would have been more signatures on that letter, but the nomination was advanced so diligently that some did not get a chance to sign the letter before Greg's hearing.

I would like to conclude by saying that I can personally attest to Mr. Phillips' qualifications to serve as a Federal judge. Greg was on the senate Judiciary Committee when we served together in the Wyoming Legislature. On the senate floor, we sat across the aisle from each other—and I do not mean just across the Republican-Democratic aisle, I mean right next to each other across the aisle—and got to visit a lot. He was a part of formulating my 80 percent rule for legislating.

Greg and his family are highly respected in their Wyoming community, and Wyoming is proud to call Greg one of our own. He will be an outstanding judge to follow Terry O'Brien, another longtime friend of mine. Terry and I, when he was a Wyoming District Court judge and I was in the Wyoming State senate, used to have dinner together to solve the world's problems. Then I became a U.S. Senator and he became a U.S. circuit court judge. I know his successor will honorably fill that seat.

Mr. Phillips is highly qualified to serve on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, and I call on my colleagues to also support his confirmation. Let's get this man to work in his new job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I join Senator ENZI in strongly supporting the nomination of Greg Phillips to a seat on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Greg Phillips will be an outstanding judge. He graduated with honors, as you heard from Senator ENZI, from the University of Wyoming College of Law. He has worked in private practice, he has worked in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for Wyoming, and he currently serves as attorney general for the State of Wyoming. The breadth of his experience, his understanding of the law and the role of a judge, as well as the thoroughness with which he approaches his responsibilities—well, they will serve him well.

The people who know him best—his peers—uniformly praise his intellect, his diligence, and his fairness. His former boss, U.S. district judge Alan Johnson, said this in a recent letter to Senator ENZI:

> Again and again, local defense attorneys have expressed their appreciation for the fair handed, respectful, and even tempered treatment they have received from Greg Phillips.

We are very fortunate in Wyoming to have Greg Phillips nominated for the bench. I have no doubt that as his career continues, he will become a successful and a respected member of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. I strongly encourage all Members of the Senate to join Senator ENZI and me in voting to confirm Greg Phillips.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. I yield back the remainder of any of our time and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Gregory Alan Phillips, of Wyoming, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 169 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Alexander	Brown	Corker
Ayotte	Burr	Cornyn
Baldwin	Cardin	Cowan
Barrasso	Carper	Crapo
Baucus	Casey	Donnelly
Begich	Chambliss	Durbin
Bennet	Chiesa	Enzi
Blumenthal	Coburn	Feinstein
Blunt	Cochran	Fischer
Boozman	Collins	Franken
Boxer	Coons	Gillibrand
Grassley	Manchin	Schatz
Hagan	McCaskill	Schumer
Harkin	McConnell	Scott
Hatch	Menendez	Sessions
Heinrich	Merkley	Shaheen
Heller	Mikulski	Shelby
Hirono	Moran	Stabenow
Hoeven	Murphy	Tester
Isakson	Murray	Thune
Johanns	Nelson	Udall (CO)
Johnson (SD)	Paul	Udall (NM)
Johnson (WI)	Portman	Vitter
Kaine	Pryor	Warner
Kirk	Reed	Warren
Klobuchar	Reid	Whitehouse
Landrieu	Risch	Wicker
Leahy	Roberts	Wyden
Lee	Rockefeller	
Levin	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—12

Cantwell	Graham	McCain
Coats	Heitkamp	Murkowski
Cruz	Inhofe	Rubio
Flake	King	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

KEEP STUDENT LOANS AFFORDABLE ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding a motion to proceed to S. 1238 is now pending; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 124, S. 1238, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the current reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans for 1 year, to modify required distribution rules for pension plans, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patrick J. Leahy, Amy Klobuchar, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Ron Wyden, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Sherrod Brown, Robert P. Casey Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Al Franken, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as I understand it, the majority leader has just filed cloture on a bill that would keep us at a 3.4-percent student loan rate for Stafford loans, which impact about 7 million Americans, for a year. Am I correct on that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion is on the motion to proceed.

Mrs. BOXER. That is a very important cloture motion. I hope we will move forward on this bill in a bipartisan way. As of now, student loan rates have doubled on Stafford loans. In my State of California, 550,000 Californians are facing a doubling of their student loans, from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. I have asked my students to contact me and talk to me about their real-world stories and what it means to them to see a doubling of their student loan interest rate.

I will tell you they are more eloquent than I could ever be. They talk about how they look at their dreams and maybe they will become fantasy dreams. They talk about what it would be to believe you are in a ball and chain of student loan debt that is so large it overwhelms you.

In the name of those students and all the students across the country, I hope the majority leader's move to resolve this for at least a year and keep those loans at 3.4 percent—I hope that motion to proceed will go forward and that the bill itself will pass.

What are the alternatives? Every alternative I have heard from the Republicans leads to higher interest rates with no cap. I don't know if you remember the years that interest rates rose after a period of low rates, and they went up to 7, 8, 9, 10, double digits—12 percent. I remember those days. It is hard for our people to remember that, but those were crushing interest rates.

If we do not have a cap on student loan interest rates, we are facing a real problem in the future, a problem that is going to impact the quality of life of our families. We are already seeing the Fed put out statements saying the crush of the burden of student loans without these high interest rates is having an impact on our economic recovery. I have read stories of young people who were putting off marriage and having families because of the crush of student loan debt.

I am very pleased we are moving forward on this commonsense proposal to keep these rates at 3.4 percent. We offset the costs by closing tax loopholes that hardly affect anybody at all. It has to do with inheritance on a 401(k), and it will pay for this proposal.

I am very supportive of the immigration bill, but at the last minute my Republican friends came forward with an enormous proposal to build an even bigger fence and wider fence and stronger fence. I guess the song ''Don't Fence Me In''—it is an old song—doesn't apply anymore. We are going to be fenced in. The cost of that is $20 billion, $30 billion, $40 billion. Surely we can find $4 billion for a year to make sure our students do not have to face a doubling of these rates.

MCCARTHY NOMINATION

I also come to the floor to speak about Gina McCarthy. For those people who have not followed this debate, Gina McCarthy has been nominated by President Obama to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. To me she is the poster child of bipartisanship and one of the best qualified candidates I have ever seen for this position.

She is experienced; she is smart; she understands the law; she understands energy; she understands everything she has to understand to undertake this job; she understands court decisions; she understands the health impacts of dirty air; she also understands that without a clean environment and a healthy environment we cannot have economic growth.

I often retell the story that when the walls came down in Eastern Europe, the air was so thick you could not even see the people. One of the first things they did is ask us how to clean up their air. We have made great strides, and we will continue to do that.

Yes, we have to face carbon pollution and the President is taking a stand to say he wants to preserve this planet and he is going to follow the signs. Some people have said: We do not like that. Therefore, maybe we should not vote for Gina McCarthy.

Can I just say this? The President has his policies, and you do not have to agree with them—or you can. I do. If you do not, that is fair. That is fine. But somebody has to run the Environmental Protection Agency. If you have a problem with those policies, you are going to have to go to someone who is intelligent and wise and bipartisan in nature to talk to, and Gina McCarthy is one of those people.

This is the second time Gina McCarthy has been nominated for a top position at the EPA. She was confirmed by the Senate for her current position, which is the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, without one ''no'' vote. Let me reiterate that. No one stood up and said no. Everyone supported her.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported out her nomination on May 16. It is July. This is the longest period that EPA has ever gone without an Administrator, and the full Senate should confirm this nominee as soon as possible.

When I say Gina McCarthy is the poster child for bipartisanship, I mean what I say. She has over three decades of public service at the local, State, and Federal levels. She has demonstrated a record of working with Republicans and Democrats. Let me just run through the Republicans: The Republican Governor of Connecticut Jodi Rell, four Republican Governors of Massachusetts, William Weld, Paul Cellucci, Jane Swift, and Mitt Romney; and then a Democratic President, Barack Obama.

Let's look at what former Republican Governor Jane Swift said about Gina McCarthy in an opinion piece that ran in the Boston Globe. Remember, this is a former Republican Governor. She said:

> Gina McCarthy . . . would bring competence, fairness and bipartisanship to Washington. . . .

And:

> McCarthy's track record of accomplishment and her collaborative, pragmatic approach to policymaking are the reason she enjoys such [strong] support.

This former Republican Governor goes on to say:

> [T]he Senate has an immediate opportunity to strike a blow for good government and bureaucratic competence by swiftly approving McCarthy's nomination.

The title of Governor Swift's article in support of Gina reads, ''A qualified nominee for the EPA.'' This was written on May 23, 2013.

Christine Todd Whitman—we all know her, she was the former EPA Administrator, a Republican—called for a fair confirmation process.

You can look at 59 businesses, health officials, environmental organizations, scientists—they all support Gina McCarthy. For example, Dr. Georges Benjamin, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association, said:

> Ms. McCarthy has been a true champion for public health and has consistently demonstrated her leadership in developing sensible safeguards to protect the public's health from pollution. . . . [She] is well respected by both the public health community and industry and has a solid record of working across the aisle with Democrats and Republicans. . . .

That is a very strong statement. Then there is Gloria Bergquist, vice president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. Here is an EPA Administrator nominee getting the support of the vice president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. That is a rarity. This is what she said:

> She's a pragmatic policymaker. She has aspirational environmental goals, but she accepts real-world economics.

That is why this nominee should be embraced by everyone. Yes, she has aspirational environmental goals for her grandchildren—someday when she has them—she wants them to breathe clean air and so on, drink clean water, but she understands the pragmatics that go into making policy. I believe Gina will lead the EPA to transparency, she will follow the science and the law, and, yes, she will be straight from the shoulder and she will tell Republicans and Democrats alike how she sees the issue; when we do not agree, how we can reach agreement. By the way, Gina has answered more than 1,000 questions from Republicans on the EPW employment.

The EPA has provided extensive information to Members of the Senate in connection with this nomination. This

is the longest the EPA has gone without an Administrator. How is this the right thing to do? This is the United States of America. This President deserves to have his people in place the same as a Republican President.

Gina McCarthy has a deep understanding that the health and safety of the American people and a growing economy go hand in hand. She will lead the EPA in a manner consistent with her past track record of success.

From my perspective, approving Gina McCarthy to head the EPA is a very important step toward helping the health of our children as well as future generations, and that is our most sacred obligation. We need her strong bipartisan approach to lead the EPA.

It is no great secret that in this last election both parties were fighting for the votes of women. It was a knockdown, drag-out battle. The Democrats won the women's vote, which helped to elect President Obama—by a lot. The Republicans said: You know what, we have to change, we have to reach out. This is their chance.

This woman deserves a promotion. There is nothing in her record that should make anyone fear her. She is a good woman and a hard-working person. She has won unanimous support from this body before, and there is no reason why we should not confirm her.

I am going to continue to speak out for Gina. I really do believe my colleagues are hearing the truth about Gina. I think they are getting the message that she is quite bipartisan. She has strong support in the business community as well as among scientists and others in the health community.

I am very hopeful, first of all, that there will not be a filibuster. This woman deserves an up-or-down vote. Secondly, my colleagues will think long and hard, and they will agree with so many Republican lawmakers and former Governors who served with Gina and will stand up and say: She is a good woman and deserves this promotion.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague from California Senator BOXER for her very eloquent and powerful words on behalf of my client and friend Gina McCarthy and her appointment as Administrator of the EPA. I don't make any pretense of matching the persuasiveness of her statement on behalf of Gina McCarthy, but I am going to be speaking throughout this week and for as long as it takes about Gina McCarthy because she is not only a client and friend, she is a consummate public servant and environmental protector.

I have known Gina McCarthy for many years. In fact, I was her lawyer, which is why I say she was a client. As her lawyer, as attorney general of the State, she became a friend, not just because of her personal qualities of integrity and intelligence but because of her professionalism as an environmental protector who has sought always to recognize the need for a balance between environmental activism and economic growth. She recognizes a balance involving ardent and passionate protection of environmental values as much as anyone could possibly bring to this task. She also brings a willingness to listen, a willingness to hear all sides and consider all facts and, in fact, act as a passionate fact finder and lawyer as well as someone who respects the letter and spirit of the law.

I wish to speak to my colleagues about her respect for the law. It isn't just the letter of the law she follows; it is the spirit and intent of the legislature. I think that is important and should be important to this body because she has reflected throughout her career, working for two Republican Governors in Massachusetts and Connecticut, her dedication to public interests and to the legislative intent of the laws she fulfills.

She is truly an environmental protector for all seasons. She is a woman for all seasons and a public servant for all seasons. Over the years we worked together she was consistently tough, fair, and smart as an environmental law enforcer. She recognized the need to balance environmental activism with economic growth, and she also understood that the two are almost always mutually supportive.

I am proud and delighted she has demonstrated her willingness to assume this critical position and to face the kind of difficult path this confirmation process has imposed. Achieving confirmation, which I actively support, should be truly bipartisan. Blocking a vote on her nomination is disappointing and destructive. It is paralyzing partisan gamesmanship at its worst.

My former colleague is well respected in the environmental and business community in my State of Connecticut and around the country for her dedication to listening and developing public leadership and practical solutions to environmental challenges. She protects environmental values and policies while enhancing economic opportunity. She is no foe of the business community or economic progress and job creation. In fact, she sees how protecting economic values is complementary and supportive to environmental activism.

The President couldn't have picked a more qualified person to lead the EPA at this critical time. The combination of her experience, intelligence, energy, and unquestioned expertise will make Gina McCarthy an effective EPA Administrator. She has a deep understanding that the health and safety of the American people depends on clean air and clean water. The American people, more than ever, understand that fact. She is the right person for this job at this time.

I urge my colleagues to move forward with her confirmation, to avoid obstructionist tactics, and to embrace this nomination as good for all of the American people, for all of the interests she has sought to represent. I urge us to move forward as quickly as possible so this critical agency will have the kind of leadership that is so important at this point in our history.

I urge my colleagues to support my friend and the President's choice to lead the EPA. I assure my colleagues they will not be disappointed.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD L. FANN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the service of Ronald L. Fann, who will be retiring August 1, 2013, after 42 years of dedicated service to the Federal Government. Mr. Fann demonstrated great dedication to enhancing the safety and security of the U.S. Senate, its staff, and visitors.

Mr. Fann began his career in 1969, as a military intelligence officer in the U.S. Army, where he performed counterintelligence operations against East Germany and the Soviet Union. He continued his intelligence work in Germany as a U.S. Army civilian, protecting our Nation during the height of the Cold War, serving in Bremerhaven and Frankfurt. Mr. Fann went on to work at the Pentagon for the U.S. Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, supervising intelligence operations worldwide.

In 1986 Mr. Fann was assigned to an important classified program that supported the Nation's national security and emergency preparedness operations. During his 27-year assignment to this project, he was appointed to the National Security Agency's Senior Cryptologic Executive Service in 1991, serving as its deputy and later as program director.

Mr. Fann is a proud Texas A&M Aggie alumnus and a graduate of the National War College.

I commend Mr. Fann's contributions and longstanding career in public service. I, along with my colleagues from

both sides of the aisle, congratulate him on his well-earned retirement and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

WASHAKIE COUNTY, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to honor the residents of Washakie County, WY as they celebrate their Centennial.

Located in northern Wyoming, and nestled in the Big Horn Basin, Washakie County is a great place to live and work. Nearly 8,500 residents call Ten Sleep and Worland and the surrounding rural areas home. This unique county offers a glimpse into Wyoming's traditions and proud culture.

Washakie County got its start when Wyoming Gov. Joseph M. Carey signed the enabling act on April 19, 1911. Worland was chosen over Ten Sleep in the election for county seat in November 1912 by a vote of 582 to 245. County officers took their positions to launch the county in January 1913.

Washakie County was named for the head chief of the Shoshone people, Chief Washakie. He was so important to our State and Nation that Wyoming chose to commemorate his leadership by placing a sculpture of him by Dave McGary in the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center's Emancipation Hall.

World-class archaeological sites are plentiful throughout the Big Horn Basin. Worland boasts one of the finest interpretive centers for geology, archaeology, and paleontology at the Washakie Museum and Cultural Center. Exhibits portray the historical people first inhabiting Wyoming's northern area. The Colby Mammoth Site near the Big Horn River contained some of the earliest known evidence of human activity in the Cowboy State. One of Washakie County's most famous citizens is George Frison. This world-renowned archeologist began a lifelong love of archeology when he found stone tools, rock shelters, and rock art on his family ranch near Ten Sleep. His study of the prehistoric hunters of the high plains earned him a place on the National Academy of Sciences.

In the past 100 years, Washakie County has seen a variety of industries thrive and evolve. Agriculture has long been the backbone of the area. Pioneering irrigation districts made it possible for hard-working operations to survive off the Big Horn River, fed by Wyoming's steep mountain snow runoff. Farmers spend their summer tending to the fields for a variety of crops, including barley for the hops component in MillerCoors and Budweiser products. A number of farms produce sugar beets that are processed by Wyoming Sugar Company LLC, which is owned by producer-investors. Other crops grown in the area include alfalfa, beans, beets, and corn.

Residents of Washakie County have worked hard to ensure a healthy relationship between energy, natural resources, and agriculture. Oil reserves were discovered as far back as 1914. Coal bed methane has also boomed over the years, helping the United States move toward our goal of energy independence. Bentonite is abundant throughout the Basin, helping make Wyoming the leading bentonite supplier in the world.

Ten Sleep currently holds the honor of Wyoming's ''Best Tasting Drinking Water'' proclaimed by the Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems. Water from the Madison Aquifer is not only bragged about, it also provides the opportunity for a niche industry. Relied upon for decades by local farmers and ranchers, Aquavista 100% Pure Artesian Drinking Water is bottled locally. Admiral Beverage Corporation also utilizes the water source. Operations began in Worland in 1945 and they have become the primary supplier of carbonated soft drinks throughout the region.

Washakie County welcomes all adventure seekers, young and old. In the winter, the Meadowlark Ski Lodge hosts skiers and snowboards within the boundaries of the Big Horn National Forest. Endless recreation opportunities can be found on over 900,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management public land access, including hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, and wildlife watching. In fact, you can still observe horses roaming the rolling hills and rugged canyons and badlands within the Fifteenmile Herd Management Area, established in 1985. US highway 16's Scenic Byway is an ideal route for travelers headed to Yellowstone. The majestic vistas, seen while driving though Ten Sleep Canyon, are unparalleled.

It is an honor to recognize the residents of Washakie County as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. This year, the Washakie County Centennial Committee has planned a countywide celebration on July 12 and 13 to commemorate this milestone. A committee of dedicated citizens spearheaded this celebration and deserves recognition. A big thank you goes to Cheri Shelp, Dustin Fuller, Lauree Schmeltzer, Phyllis Lewis, Bert Bresach, Linda Abell, and Sherryl Ferguson. I invite my colleagues to visit the communities of Washakie County. The county's rich heritage, geological wonders, and genuine cowboy hospitality provide a truly wonderful experience to visitors from all over the world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KRYS BART

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Krys Bart, president and CEO for the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority. After 14 years as president and CEO of the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority and directing operations at Reno-Tahoe International Airport, RNO, Krys is retiring. She has demonstrated commendable leadership during her tenure and service to the people of the State of Nevada.

As the principal director of Reno-Tahoe International Airport, Krys has established a reputation for efficiency and excellence. Her role required her to manage a multi-million dollar budget, and under her leadership, Reno-Tahoe International Airport has twice been recognized by the Air Transport Research Society as one of the five most efficient airports in North America. She was named the 2007 Airport Director of the Year by the Airport Revenue News Magazine, and her dedication to the aviation industry has earned her the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Airport Executives, AAAE.

Her dedication as a business executive is no less impressive. In 2004, Krys was named one of the seven most respected CEOs in Nevada by the Nevada Business Journal, and was inducted into the Reno Business Leaders Hall of Fame the following year. Krys is also heavily involved in her local community, serving on the board of directors for the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, as well as on the Nevada Humane Society Board.

I want to thank Krys for her many lasting contributions to aviation and air travel in the State of Nevada, as well as for her dedicated efforts in business and community development. I congratulate her on the special occasion of her retirement, and join with all Nevadans in wishing her many successful and fulfilling years to come.•

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 28, 2013, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment;

S. Con. Res. 19. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 28, 2013, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 324. An act to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II.

H.R. 1151. An act to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the triennial International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2383. An act to designate the new Interstate Route 70 bridge over the Mississippi River connecting St. Louis, Missouri, and southwestern Illinois as the ''Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge''.

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bills were signed on July 2, 2013, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REED).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1613. An act to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for the proper Federal management and oversight of transboundary hydrocarbon reservoirs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1864. An act to amend title 10, United States Code, to require an Inspector General investigation of allegations of retaliatory personnel actions taken in response to making protected communications regarding sexual assault.

H.R. 1960. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2231. An act to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to increase energy explorations and production on the Outer Continental Shelf, provide for equitable revenue sharing for all coastal States, implement the reorganization of the functions of the former Minerals Management Service into distinct and separate agencies, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1613. An act to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for the proper Federal management and oversight of transboundary hydrocarbon reservoirs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1864. An act to amend title 10, United States Code, to require an Inspector General investigation of allegations of retaliatory personnel actions taken in response to making protected communications regarding sexual assault; to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 2231. An act to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to increase energy exploration and production on the Outer Continental Shelf, provide for equitable revenue sharing for all coastal States, implement the reorganization of the functions of the former Minerals Management Service into distinct and separate agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1960. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2184. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of two (2) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2185. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of four (4) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2186. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report entitled, ''Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2187. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2188. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Technical Amendments to Counterterrorism Sanctions Regulations Implemented by OFAC'' (31 CFR Parts 594, 595, and 597) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2189. A communication from the Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's management report for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2190. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Exchange Functions: Eligibility for Exemptions; Miscellaneous Minimum Essential Coverage Provisions'' (RIN0938–AR68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2191. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–042); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2192. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–087); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2193. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Pell Grant Program'' (RIN1840–AD11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2194. A communication from the Program Manager, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Privacy Act, Exempt Record System; Implementation'' (45 CFR Part 5b) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2195. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on Traumatic Brain Injury in the United States: Understanding the Public Health Problem among Current and Former Military Personnel''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2196. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Audit of the Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act of 2008''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2197. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2198. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report entitled ''Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) 2012 Post-Election Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1269. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 194

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes.

S. 346

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 373

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to amend titles 10, 32, 37, and 38 of the United States Code, to add a definition of spouse for purposes of military personnel policies and military and veteran benefits that recognizes new State definitions of spouse.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 397, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lena Horne in recognition of her achievements and contributions to American culture and the civil rights movement.

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 422

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 422, a bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, and for other purposes.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 541

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 541, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 602

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 602, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 669

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 669, a bill to make permanent the Internal Revenue Service Free File program.

S. 731

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 731, a bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency to conduct an empirical impact study on proposed rules relating to the International Basel III agreement on general risk-based capital requirements, as they apply to community banks.

S. 734

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 734, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 769

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 769, a bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

S. 813

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 813, a bill to require that Peace Corps volunteers be subject to the same limitations regarding coverage of abortion services as employees of the Peace Corps with respect to coverage of such services, and for other purposes.

S. 878

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 892, a bill to amend the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 to impose sanctions with respect to certain transactions in foreign currencies, and for other purposes.

S. 896

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 896, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 934

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 934, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 regarding reasonable break time for nursing mothers.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

S. 1084

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1084, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy as the lead Federal agency for coordinating Federal, State, and local assistance provided to promote the energy retrofitting of schools.

S. 1114

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1114, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to require the Attorney General to disclose each decision, order, or opinion of a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court that includes significant legal interpretation of section 501 or 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 unless such disclosure is not in the national security interest of the United States and for other purposes.

S. 1159

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1159, a bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to prohibit discrimination on account of sexual orientation or gender identity when extending credit.

S. 1163

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1163, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 1181

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1181, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1195

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1195, a bill to repeal the renewable fuel standard.

S. 1211

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1211, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the use of the phrases GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill to give a false impression of approval or endorsement by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 1215

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1215, a bill to strengthen privacy protections, accountability, and oversight related to domestic surveillance conducted pursuant to the USA PATRIOT Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

S. 1238

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1238, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the current reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans for 1 year, to modify required distribution rules for pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1241

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1241, a bill to establish the interest rate for certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 1256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. RES. 164

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 164, a resolution designating October 30, 2013, as a national day of remembrance for nuclear weapons program workers.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1269. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about legislation that I am introducing called the Community College to Career Fund Act. This legislation is aimed at closing what is called the skills gap—the gap between the skills that businesses need to fill open positions, and the skills that workers have. Closing the skills gap will mean more Americans get jobs and businesses get the workforce they need. It is key to the future prosperity and economic competitiveness of our Nation.

When I travel around Minnesota and talk to employers, the single biggest thing they tell me they need is a workforce capable of handling the jobs of the 21st century. Finding qualified employees is particularly a problem for our manufacturers. Recent surveys in Minnesota show that ⅓ to ½ of manufacturers have job openings that they can't fill. They want to hire people, but they can't, because they can't find employees with the skills they need.

Meanwhile, unemployment continues to be far too high. With so many Americans still looking for jobs, and employers seeking to fill open positions, this is a problem that we have to solve.

Minnesota and many other States are working to address this problem by bringing businesses and community colleges together. There is a lot we can learn from these efforts, and my legislation supports and builds on what has been working in Minnesota.

Take, for example, Hennepin Technical College in Minnesota. Local manufacturers have joined with Hennepin Tech to form the M–Powered Program, which trains students in manufacturing skills so they can fill open jobs. When I met with them recently, they told me that 93 percent of the program's nearly 300 graduates have permanent jobs. That is a program that's working.

In Alexandria, MN, businesses and community colleges have been working together for years and offer another powerful example of success. Douglas County is like the Silicon Valley of packaging machines, and businesses there work with Alexandria Technical and Community College, which is ranked one of the best in the country. The manufacturers have donated machinery to train the students so that they can gain the skills needed for jobs at those businesses. When they graduate, students get snapped up by one of the companies. In fact, at the height of the recession in 2009–2010, Douglas County's unemployment rate was a good 3 points lower than the rest of the State.

There is the Right Skills Now program, which is a partnership between the Manufacturing Institute, ACT, the National Institute of Metalworking Skills and the President's Job council. This program started as a pilot program in Minnesota, and has since expanded to Nevada and Michigan. I visited the program at South Central College in Faribault, MN, and held a roundtable with participating businesses. I asked each of them how many jobs they were ready to hire for, and between them, there were 40 or 50 jobs that needed to be filled. There were only 17 students in the first term that this program was offered, and the numbers are obviously in those students' favor to find a job.

There are many other examples of this approach working in Minnesota, as well as across the country. It is happening in Rochester, Brainerd, and Duluth, Minnesota. The Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee of the HELP Committee held a hearing last year where we heard about four great examples of these partnerships from all over the country. This approach is putting Americans back to work and helping businesses grow nationwide, and we need to support those efforts.

That is exactly what my bill would do. It would create a Community College to Career Fund, which would offer competitive grants for partnerships between businesses and community colleges aimed at closing the skills gap. The partnerships would compete by demonstrating how they would fill in-demand jobs.

This bill rewards what works, giving flexibility for the partnerships to determine the strategy that best fits their needs, including apprenticeships, paid internships, partnerships with high schools, or updating training equipment. My bill also leverages private investments, rewarding those partnerships that bring outside resources to the table.

I hear all the time from businesses that are desperate to hire people, if only they could find the right talent. This is a tremendous opportunity to get Americans back to work by helping them get the skills that they need. The Community College to Career Fund Act would seize that opportunity, allow our businesses to grow and expand, and position our workforce, and our country, for prosperity into the future. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in executive session on Wednesday, July 10, 2013, at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to mark-up S. 815, Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2013 and any nominations cleared for action.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the Committee at (202) 224–5375.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2013, at 9:30 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider S. 1237, the Omnibus Territories Act.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510–6150, or by e-mail to danielle_deraney@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Isaiah Akin at (202) 224–5360 or Danielle Deraney at (202) 224–1219.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to explore how U.S. gasoline and fuel prices are being affected by the current boom in domestic oil production and the restructuring of the U.S. refining industry and distribution system.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510–6150, or by e-mail to Lauren_Goldschmidt@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Dave Berick at (202) 224–2209 or Lauren Goldschmidt at (202) 224–5488.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510–6150, or by e-mail to John_Assini@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sara Tucker at (202) 224–6224 or John Assini at (202) 224–9313.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Rachel Murphy, Alexandra Pena, and Lissandra Villa of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES REVITALIZATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 87, S. 793.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 793) to support revitalization and reform of the Organization of American States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 793) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 793

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Organization of American States Revitalization and Reform Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Charter of the Organization of American States recognizes that—

(A) representative democracy is indispensable for the stability, peace, and development of the Western Hemisphere; and

(B) a purpose of the Organization of American States is to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention.

(2) The United States supports the purposes and principles enshrined in—

(A) the Charter of the Organization of American States;

(B) the Inter-American Democratic Charter; and

(C) the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man.

(3) The United States supports the Organization of American States in its efforts with all member states to meet our commitments under the instruments set forth in paragraph (2).

(4) Congress supports the Organization of American States as it operates in a manner consistent with the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to promote democracy and the rule of law throughout the Western Hemisphere;

(2) to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Western Hemisphere; and

(3) to support the practices, purposes, and principles expressed in the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and other fundamental instruments of democracy.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Organization of American States (OAS) should be the primary multi-lateral diplomatic entity for regional dispute resolution and promotion of democratic governance and institutions;

(2) the OAS is a valuable platform from which to launch initiatives aimed to benefit the countries of the Western Hemisphere;

(3) the Summit of the Americas institution and process embodies a valuable complement to regional dialogue and cooperation;

(4) the Summit of the Americas process should be formally and more effectively integrated into the work of the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other Members of the Joint Summit Working Group, and the OAS should play a central role in overseeing and managing the Summit process;

(5) the OAS General Assembly and the Summit of the Americas events should be combined geographically and chronologically in the years in which they coincide;

(6) to ensure an appropriate balance of priorities, the OAS should review its core functions no less than annually and seek opportunities to reduce the number of mandates not directly related to its core functions;

(7) key OAS strengths lie in strengthening peace and security, promoting and consolidating representative democracy, regional dispute resolution, election assistance and monitoring, fostering economic growth and development cooperation, facilitating trade, addressing migration, combating illicit drug trafficking and transnational crime, and support for the Inter-American Human Rights System;

(8) the core competencies referred to in paragraph (7) should remain central to the strategic planning process of the OAS and the consideration of future mandates;

(9) any changes to OAS mandates should be accepted by the member states only after an analysis is conducted and formally presented consisting of a calculation of the financial costs associated with the mandate, an assessment of the comparative advantage of the OAS in the implementation of the mandate, and a description of the ways in which the mandate advances the organization's core mission;

(10) any new mandates should include, in addition to the analysis described in paragraph (9), an identification of the source of funding to be used to implement the mandate;

(11) the OAS would benefit from enhanced coordination between the OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank on issues that relate to economic development;

(12) the OAS would benefit from standard reporting requirements for each project and grant agreement; and

(13) the OAS would benefit from effective implementation of—

(A) transparent and merit-based human resource standards and processes; and

(B) transparent hiring, firing, and promotion standards and processes, including

with respect to factors such as gender and national origin.

SEC. 5. ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES REVITALIZATION AND REFORM STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a multiyear strategy that—

(A) identifies a path toward the adoption of necessary reforms that prioritize and reinforce the OAS's core competencies described in section 4(7);

(B) outlines an approach to secure from the OAS effective adoption of—

(i) a results-based budgeting process in order to strategically prioritize, and where appropriate, reduce current and future mandates; and

(ii) transparent hiring, firing, and promotion practices; and

(C) reflects the inputs and coordination from other Executive Branch agencies, as appropriate.

(2) POLICY PRIORITIES AND COORDINATION.—The Secretary of State shall—

(A) carry out diplomatic engagement to build support for reforms and budgetary burden sharing among OAS member states and observers;

(B) promote donor coordination among OAS member states; and

(C) help set priorities for the OAS.

(b) BRIEFINGS.—The Secretary of State shall offer to the committees referred to in subsection (a)(1) a quarterly briefing that—

(1) reviews assessed and voluntary contributions;

(2) analyzes the progress made by the OAS to adopt and effectively implement a results-based budgeting process in order to strategically prioritize, and where appropriate, reduce current and future mandates;

(3) analyzes the progress made by the OAS to adopt and effectively implement transparent and merit-based human resource standards and practices and transparent hiring, firing, and promotion standards and processes, including with respect to factors such as gender and national origin;

(4) analyzes the progress made by the OAS to adopt and effectively implement a practice of soliciting member quotas to be paid on a schedule that will improve the consistency of its operating budget; and

(5) analyzes the progress made by the OAS to review, streamline, and prioritize mandates to focus on core missions and make efficient and effective use of available funding.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the majority leader then be recognized and that following the remarks of the two leaders, the time until 11 a.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half; further, that at 11 a.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 97, the nomination of Jennifer Dorsey to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Nevada, and that there be 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form and all other provisions of the previous order remain in effect; and finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be a vote on the Dorsey nomination at noon tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:03 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 9, 2013, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 8, 2013:

THE JUDICIARY

GREGORY ALAN PHILLIPS, OF WYOMING, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JULY 4, 2013 NATURALIZATION CEREMONY IN HAMMOND

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who took their oaths of citizenship on July 4, 2013. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony took place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the League of Women Voters of the Calumet Area and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, was held at The Pavilion at Wolf Lake in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the globe to the United States in search of better lives for their families. The oath ceremony is a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On July 4, 2013, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Chong Ran Embury, Weiping Zhong, Boyanka Radeva Odiseeva, Olena Mykhailivna Rogers, Izabela Zuzanna Mazur, Kavita Goyal, Pooja Goyal, Yoshiko Tonosaki Simpson, Nora Mardi, Margarita Figueroa De Cornejo, Syed Durvesh Mohiuddin, Eunice Childress, Rafael Navarro Gomez, Justyna Ksiazek, James Lisitsas, Yvonne Monalisa Odemba, Dragoljub Martinovic, Elizabeth Anne Robinson, Danute Jackson, Daniela Gotis, Edgardo Reyes Eliscupides, Sergio Hernandez Romo, Lynn Bouziotis, Nancy Alondra Gallardo, Jose Guadalupe Gonzalez Zambrano, Fadma Alburei, Maria Nazare Barros Bezerra, Liliana Guadalupe Brady, Norma Angelica Camarillo, Adrian Ferrer, Angel Giron, Vandana Mona Graham, Michael Ikechukwu Ibekie, Marija Klechkaroski, Maria Leanos Mota, Guillermina Lopez, Mauricio Lopez, Himelda Morua, Syeda Vajahath Muhiuddin, Antonio Ochoa, Cristina Pellegrini Rath, Amrit Pal Singh Sarai, Amela Spahic, Salvador Tinoco, Angela Arutiunovna Tonoyan-Hopkins, Huseyin Salih Usak, Ana Luisa Vargas, Genoveva Viramontes, and Jennifer Zhang.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country ". . . of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals, who became citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2013, the day of our Nation's independence. As American citizens, they are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

TRIBUTE TO DICK WAYBRIGHT

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard "Dick" Waybright on the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director of the West Virginia Forestry Association, after thirty-three years of service. Mr. Waybright's work with the Forestry Association has earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues, association members, and many others who have worked with him throughout his many years with the organization.

Mr. Waybright began his career in public service in 1968 as a teacher in the Mason County school system, later becoming a coach then Assistant Principal. He continued to serve the public by later joining West Virginia University's Extension Services as a 4–H Agent in Kanawha County, where he coordinated county 4–H programs, directed Camp Virgil Tate and the Kanawha County Fair. In 1980, Mr. Waybright joined the West Virginia Forestry Association as Executive Director and has been serving in that position since that time.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Waybright has worked with seven governors and countless legislators on behalf of the association. These relationships allowed Mr. Waybright and the Forestry Association to achieve great legislative successes, including the Managed Timberland Tax, Logging Sediment Control Act, defeating the Excess Acreage Privilege Tax, resolved Tier 2.5 Water Pollution Control issue, among many other initiatives important to the forestry industry.

On July 31, 2013, Dick Waybright will retire from his position with the Forestry Association. Though his colleagues, association membership, and many others will miss working with him, Dick leaves the association in a strong position to continue his legacy.

Dick Waybright currently resides in Ripley, Jackson County with his wife, Linda. Together Dick and Linda have two daughters, three grandsons, and one granddaughter. In addition to his role with the Forestry Association, Dick serves his community as a member of the Jackson County Commission. He is also active in his church, serving as a Sunday school teacher and chair of Ripley Calvary United Methodist Church's Administrative Board.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia owes Richard "Dick" Waybright a tremendous debt of gratitude for his many years of past and current community service. It is my honor to thank Mr. Waybright for his devotion and congratulate him on his retirement. I am proud to call him friend and fellow Mountaineer.

STAN MUSIAL VETERANS MEMORIAL BRIDGE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong and enthusiastic support of H.R. 2383, which designates the portion of the new Interstate 70 bridge over the Mississippi River connecting St. Louis and southwestern Illinois as the "Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge." I support this legislation not only because it will ease traffic congestion and make transportation easier across state lines, but also because it honors a great American and one of the most beloved figures in the storied history of St. Louis, Missouri.

Stan "The Man" Musial is a prime example of determination as seen through his athletic career and being named as the one of the greatest hitters in baseball history. His athletic achievements show the strength and hard work he put forth in order to achieve the dreams he dreamt of at a young age. He not only is a baseball hero that many remember, but a iconic hero that gave St. Louis one of its historical markers. Today, we can see how the city admires this star leader with his proud history all over the city and the tribute made to him outside of the Cardinals baseball stadium.

Not only was Stan Musial's baseball career an example of his determination, but his willingness to serve the country as seen through his service in the United States Navy reflects his notable character as well. Stan Musial served as a Seaman First Class (E3) and was given the honorable Navy Memorial's Lone Sailor Award which honors Navy veterans who've excelled in civilian life.

With this notable athlete and veteran in our history, it is the least that can be done to name this structure as a memorial and sign of this great individual. This bridge will allow for easier transportation across the Mississippi River and allow for greater access to both Illinois and Missouri. With projects such as this, we will be able to promote growth, sustain national and international trade, as well as ensure that our citizens are able to take advantage of proper infrastructure.

Again, I congratulate the members of the Missouri and Illinois delegation for brokering

the compromise reflected in this legislation. The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge is strong and sturdy and made of steel, just like Stan Musial and the veterans who risked their lives to keep us free.

HONORING MR. JAMAL BROCK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding young man making a difference in his school, Charleston High School in Tallahatchie County, MS, Mr. Jamal Brock.

At the age of thirteen, Jamal started his own tutoring program right in his backyard called, ''Jamal's Backyard Tutoring.'' He had the help and support of Ms. Gerline Garvin a well respected mother and grandmother also in the community. He said it was tough but felt the biggest need of this community was to education the children, feeling it was their only hope to change the community and individual lives.

Jamal's tutoring program taught basic life skills, in addition to helping students with homework. The program operated year round that included summer and holidays. During the holidays he would work the students on community projects of giving back, sowing the seeds of community and support. While in school, Jamal is just as active as the Senior Class President. They plan and carryout fundraising activities to pay for planned projects and trips. Jamal is currently in the process of spear heading active participation in the community relations project for racial reconciliation with the William Winters Institute. I am proud to have Jamal Brock as a citizen of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jamal Brock for his current active role as a student making a difference.

SMITHSONIAN FREE ADMISSION ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Smithsonian Free Admission Act of 2013 to reinforce 170 years of consistent Smithsonian Institution policy of admitting the public to all permanent exhibits without charge. This policy has served the nation well. Families come to Washington, D.C. to learn about their country through its public monuments and sites. While the private amenities here can be costly for the average family, Americans have looked forward to the free museums and other official offerings for generations. The Smithsonian's free admission policy reflects the intent of its founder, John Smithson, whose gift to the federal government carried the condition that the Smithsonian be established to increase the knowledge of the public, free of charge. The bill establishing the Smithsonian, introduced by Senator William C. Preston on February 17, 1841, stated explicitly that the Smithsonian would ''preserve and exhibit with no fee'' all works of art and science. This intent and tradition was interrupted by the Smithsonian's Board of Regents, which, without notice to Congress, said casually that it would charge an admission fee for a permanent exhibit for the first time in its history, and on January 29, 2007, the Smithsonian instituted a fee for admission to the National Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Pavilion. Congress, of course, not the Board of Regents, should decide so basic a policy, especially when it departs from long-standing public policy. This admission fee sets a harmful precedent for future permanent exhibits, making it difficult to deny the other Smithsonian entities that right and may encourage other Smithsonian entities to structure their exhibits to fit the Butterfly Pavilion model.

The Butterfly Pavilion opened on February 14, 2008. Although the Smithsonian had previously charged fees for films and shows, such as IMAX films, the National Air and Space Museum's Planetarium, and the National Zoo's Christmas Lights special, the $6 admission fee for the Butterfly Pavilion marked the first time an admission fee was charged for a permanent exhibit. My bill requires a report to Congress in advance of any proposed fees and requires the Secretary of the Smithsonian to submit a plan for funding the Butterfly Pavilion without an admission fee.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act, which I am also introducing today, addresses the Smithsonian's fundraising capacity by restructuring and expanding the Smithsonian's Board of Regents, from a board almost half of whose members are public officials to a board consisting solely of private citizens, who have greater experience and fundraising capacity than public officials. The fundraising ability of the Smithsonian was clear in the opening of the National Portrait Gallery, for example, where, according to a Congressional Research Service (CRS) report (RL 33560), donors contributed funds for the new auditorium and roof over the courtyard of the National Portrait Gallery. This private fundraising capability would be enhanced by my bill.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act and similar measures, not admission fees, provide the most realistic vehicles to raise funds for the Smithsonian without cost to the government or to the public. Admission fees can bring in only token amounts. According to CRS, the Smithsonian has long prided itself on ''free access.'' Admission fees are not the answer for taxpayers, who have already paid through the federal government's 70 percent contribution to this public institution's annual budget. Federal taxpayers do not expect to pay again through an admission fee to a federally financed institution.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join the rest of the country in observing National Women's Health Week during the week of May 12th through the 18th. As the well-being of all Americans is important, our women have been and will always be the backbone of this country. We must continue to protect and encourage women in their efforts to stay healthy.

National Women's Health Week was initiated by President Barack Obama in 2012 as a result of the Affordable Care Act, which I proudly sponsored. The President believes in honoring women by demanding gender equality in the health arena. Reportedly, women pay higher health insurance premiums than men. The Affordable Care Act prohibits discrimination against women, including making it illegal for insurance companies to deny coverage for women who have preexisting conditions such as cancer or pregnancy.

I encourage all women to make their health a priority this year and schedule professional, health care visits for regular check-ups and preventative screening. Many times, women are often caring for others that they pay less attention to their health—physically, mentally, and emotionally. I commend organizations that provide women with preventative services, such as New York's own Harlem Healthy Living and Community Healthy Network.

We must recommit ourselves to caring for the well-being of women everywhere. This year, I stand with my fellow colleagues in Congress to continue providing services that protect and secure women and their well-being.

HONORING DONOVAN MITCHELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Donovan Mitchell, a dedicated student, who is making the difference in his community.

Growing up in Holmes County, one does not usually hear many success stories involving education; however, there are some exceptions. Donovan Mitchell is one of them.

Education has always been one of the most important things in his life, mostly due to the fact that he was raised by a family of educators. His grandparents, mother, aunt, and uncle have all served as teachers in elementary and/or high schools. From a young age, they made sure that he understood the importance of obtaining a good education.

Throughout elementary and high school he received stellar grades. He even went so far as to score the highest mark on the ACT test out of his entire graduating class. At that time, his grandmother worked for the Community Students Learning Center. After noticing Donovan's constant educational success, she suggested that he volunteer as a tutor at the center. As a result, Donovan spent the majority of his senior year tutoring younger students in mathematics. Eventually, the center established a division where he specifically tutored students who were preparing to take the ACT test. The tutoring sessions were very beneficial by improving their ACT scores and positioned students to attend their colleges of choice. Also while volunteering, Donovan participated in various community service events. The most notable event was his portrayal of the former Rep. Robert Clark in a play about his life. He continued working with the center

until he graduated. Afterwards the Community Students Learning Center hired him to assist in teaching mathematics for their summer program. He spent the entire summer working with the center, and positioned himself to be the recipient of a scholarship from the Congressional Black Caucus.

Donovan attends Jackson State University where he is a senior political science major. While in college he has continued his educational success. He has received numerous awards such as Most Outstanding Student in Political Science both his sophomore and junior year, and being recognized on the Dean's List every year. Last summer, Donovan was accepted to study public policy at Princeton University in the Public Policy and International Affairs program. Upon completion of this program, he received many scholarships to Ivy League schools such as Harvard and Princeton. Donovan is currently finishing his last semester and will be obtaining his B.A. in Political Science. He has also received a scholarship to attend the University of Mississippi School of Law. After graduation, he will be pursuing a career as an attorney.

Donovan owes all of his success to how his journey began. Coming from a small town, and being humbled through his volunteer service has made him the person he is today. He loves to tell his story in hope that it will motivate other young people traveling down a similar path.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Donovan Mitchell, for his humble dedication and determination in making a difference in his community.

RECOGNIZING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Olympic National Park located on the Olympic Peninsula in the great State of Washington. Seventy-five years ago, on June 29, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation that established the Olympic National Park. In the intervening years, the Olympic National Park has become one of the most beloved and visited national parks in the country.

In establishing Olympic National Park, Congress defined the park's purpose as to: ". . . preserve for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the people, the finest sample of primeval forests of Sitka spruce, western hemlock, Douglas fir, and western red cedar in the entire United States; to provide suitable winter range and permanent protection for the herds of native Roosevelt elk and other wildlife indigenous to the area; to conserve and render available to the people, for recreational use, this outstanding mountainous country, containing numerous glaciers and perpetual snow fields and a portion of the surrounding verdant forest together with a narrow string along the beautiful Washington coast."

The park combines three different communities into one—an extensive old-growth rain forest, mountains topped with glaciers, and miles of untarnished Pacific Ocean coast. In recognition of these areas, the World Heritage Convention named Olympic National Park as a World Heritage Site, and the United National Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization heralded the park as an International Biosphere Reserve.

Olympic National Park has something that both tourists and scientists alike can marvel at—more than 650 archeological spots detailing 12,000 years of human life.

The Olympic National Park stands as a testament to the diverse heritage of America. As it has been for the last 75 years, Olympic National Park will be protected and preserved for generations.

Mr. Speaker, our country is a better place because of the special landscapes like Olympic National Park. I commend the work of M. Sarah Creachbaum, the Superintendent of Olympic National Park, park staff, National Park Service, and all fellow citizens who have dedicated time, resources, and energy to protect and preserve this biological and historical treasure. I am pleased today to recognize the Olympic National Park in the United States Congress.

HONORING ALBERT RAMSEY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Albert Ramsey has led the Yonkers Department of Veterans Services since 2000 modernizing an office and bringing new services to help the approximately 18,000 veterans and their dependents in the City of Yonkers. And today I am proud to join with Yonkers in honoring Albert Ramsey as a veteran who served 28 years in the United States Air Force.

Our nation's freedom has been preserved by members of the Armed Forces, and they continue to do so today. As a Member of Congress, I have consistently supported veterans and our servicemen and women. They deserve no less from us. We owe the preservation of our freedoms and our way of life to the veterans who proudly served their country.

Albert Ramsey advocates for and assists veterans and their families helping them to access services and benefits and to receive their deserved recognition. He strives to educate the community about veterans' needs and their many contributions to and sacrifices for our nation.

Prior to his joining the City of Yonkers, he was a Service Officer at the New York State Division of Veteran's Affairs and a board member of the Veterans Coalition of the Hudson Valley. His work was recognized by the New York American Legion who awarded him their Service Officer of the Year Award.

He joined the Air Force upon graduating from high school. He earned three Associate Degrees and completed both the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy and the Senior NCO Academy during his service. He retired from the USAF in 1990 and graduated with Distinction from Nyack College with a G.P.A. of 3.86 in 1995. He lives with his wife of eleven years Charlene.

I am proud to join with the City of Yonkers in honoring Albert Ramsey on Veterans Appreciation Day for his service to his country and his outstanding work in helping his fellow veterans and their families.

HONORING MS. BRENDA LASHAY TURNER-BUCK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Brenda Lashay Turner-Buck, a remarkable worker, who is changing her community.

Brenda Lashay Turner-Buck was born September 30, 1966 to Rev. and Mrs. Percy Turner. She is the second of three children. Brenda does have an older brother, Vincent, and a younger sister, Tammie. Brenda learned the importance of independence since she was a middle child.

Brenda graduated from Jefferson High School as Salutatorian of her class in 1984. She enrolled at Alcorn State University in Agriculture Economics and received her B.S. in 1987, followed by her Master's in 1992.

Throughout Brenda's entire life, she has truly lived and breathed the importance of "community." Being a "Preacher's Kid," it was hard not to be surrounded by people with so many needs and the opportunity to gain extended family. During high school she took on the role of President of the FFA and helped to coordinate many outreach projects. College was not different because it was an opportunity to spread her wings and learn more to bring back to the community.

For over a span of 18 years, Brenda worked at Alcorn State University in different capacities. She started as a recruiter for the university in 1988 and served as Director of the Center for Rural Life and Economic Development until 2006. She feels that God led her to her alma mater to serve as a beacon of light for many young people and families. During her tenure at the university, she was able to recruit hundreds of students and become one of the founders of AG–HOPE (Agriculture—Helps Our People Earn). The program allowed over 275 young people from rural America the opportunity to see the other side of Agriculture, Food Science, and Technology.

Today, many of them are outstanding employees of Fortune 500 companies and the USDA. In 2000, the late President Clinton Bristow, Jr., made an administrative appointment and named Ms. Buck as Director of the Center for Rural Life and Economic Development and Executive Director of Traceway Community Development Corporation. This appointment took her to another stepping stone in her career. Being a part of the Institutional Advancement, Planning and Research under the leadership of Dr. Franklin Jackson, Brenda was part of writing over 3 million dollars in grants for outreach in Southwest Mississippi. Many of the dollars provided better living conditions for families and spurred economic growth through small business development.

For years, Brenda prayed that God would show her true calling and purpose. Little did she know that she was already living it every day by making a difference in the lives of those that were less fortunate.

After six years of traveling through Southwest Mississippi, Brenda saw the need to return to her home and roll up her sleeves. October 2, 2006, Brenda returned to Jefferson County as Administrator. The six year journey has been a goal of hers to bring opportunities to the communities. Being a part of over 4 million dollars in funded grants, the community now has a new walking track, funds for a new library, and many other community services. Modest in her doing, Brenda always believes that it was God who placed her to serve the public and she's going to do just that.

Brenda didn't stop in Jefferson County. In October 2012, she was selected as the County Administrator of Claiborne County, Mississippi. She has always considered it as a second home.

Brenda is the mother of four wonderful children—Vincent Delon, Brittany, Brandy, and Tyrese.

She is a dedicated member of the Greenleaf Baptist Church, where she serves in the choir and as president of the Youth Department. She believes in the order of God first, then family and third, her career. Brenda is a team player and encourages everyone around her to reach their greatest given potential because they are unique creations of God. At the end of the day, it's not about the title she wears, but the ability to know that someone in the community is living just a little bit better because of her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Brenda Lashay Turner-Buck for her dedication and determination to take on the challenges of her community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT SMITHSONIAN ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act of 2013 to further ensure that the Smithsonian Institution is accountable to the public for the taxpayer funds it receives. The bill provides that, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act, the Smithsonian shall be considered a federal agency.

The bill complements my Smithsonian Modernization Act and my Smithsonian Free Admission Act. I introduce these three bills today to make the Smithsonian accountable for the annual federal appropriations it receives, which account for 70 percent of its budget. Although the Smithsonian was created by Congress as a federal trust, it receives the great majority of its funding from the federal government, much like federal agencies, and has always been treated as a federal agency. However, in the 1990s, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found that the Smithsonian is not a federal agency for purposes of FOIA and the Privacy Act. Indeed, the Smithsonian's website clearly states that it is "not an Executive Branch agency, and FOIA does not apply to the Smithsonian."

This lack of transparency is of great concern, particularly in light of the Smithsonian's recent history of secrecy and corruption. In 2007, an independent review found that the Smithsonian Board of Regents had violated many principles of good management during the tenure of Lawrence Small as Secretary of the Smithsonian. The report indicated that the Board had failed to provide desperately needed oversight, had overcompensated the Secretary, and had allowed the creation of an "insular culture." The report further found that the Smithsonian's deputy secretary and chief operating officer, Sheila Burke, had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than $1.2 million over six years. Importantly, the report indicated that Smithsonian leaders took great measures to keep secret these missteps and mismanagement.

While the Smithsonian now has new leaders, who are moving away from the mistakes of the past, its transparency should not depend on who is in charge. An entity supported primarily by the federal government must be accountable to the American people. The American people have a right to know that their interests are being served.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

LETTER WRITTEN BY CHRISTINA BONARRIGO

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
STUDENT GOVERNMENT,
Gainesville, FL, June 5, 2013.

Hon. CORRINE BROWN,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BROWN: A well-educated workforce is essential to the growth of our country. I firmly believe that higher education is what drives our economy and gives our country its competitive advantage in the current global economy. As the colleges and universities in the United States make progress towards curing cancer and finding alternative energy sources, the cost of a college degree has increased progressively.

According to the SFA Funds Management Report from the University of Florida, over 10,000 students have received $37,122,091 in subsidized Stafford Loans. Across the board, the cost of a college degree has increased by more than 1,000 percent in the past 35 years and many students simply cannot bear the cost of a college degree.

I do not want to see student loan rates increase, but I recognize the need for long-term solutions to the problems that students face. I, along with the 50,000+ students at the University of Florida, support a bipartisan solution that will contribute to the success of students and support them in today's economy. This is an issue that we care about and it is a discussion that we want to be a part of.

Economics teaches us that stability is one of the greatest influences in any market. Students need to be able to plan for the financial responsibilities of college and a stable loan market is crucially important to providing stability and security. I think that everyone can agree that students should be focused on their education and college graduates should be focused on their career. Unfortunately, the current loan crisis has students and graduates focused on the amount of money they owe instead of studying and contributing to the nation's economy.

Ensuring that all stakeholders' voices are heard during the discussion is our main priority in finding a long-term solution to student loan rates. We are receptive to entertaining different possible solutions until the best one is found. Students and their families deserve financial stability instead of crippling adjustments or rate increases that would hinder their success. I look forward to discussing this issue with members from the state of Florida, and would gladly share my viewpoint with other Members of Congress.

Go Gators,

CHRISTINA BONARRIGO,
Student Body President,
University of Florida.

HONORING FRANK R. SULLO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, throughout our nation's history our freedom has been preserved by members of the Armed Forces, and they continue to do so today. As a Member of Congress, I have consistently supported veterans and servicemen and women. They deserve no less from us. We owe the preservation of our freedoms and our way of life to the veterans who proudly served their country.

Today I join the City of Yonkers at its annual Veterans Appreciation Day in honoring Frank R. Sullo, who served his country as an Army infantryman in Vietnam and who received the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He is a long time resident of Yonkers who attended Public School 18 and graduated from Yonkers High School. He is an active member of the Empire Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 375, and is a member of the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans.

With his wife, Pearl, and their children, Nicole and Frank, he has a lifetime of accomplishments that has enhanced his city. I am proud to join the City of Yonkers in honoring Frank Sullo, and thank him for his heroic service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO DEUNTAE SHEARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Deuntae Sheard, a dedicated student, who is making the difference in his community.

Deuntae Sheard was born in Jackson, MS, on May 23, 1993, to the proud parents of Freddie and Elaine Sheard. Elaine is a head-start teacher and Freddie is a deputy for the local sheriff's department. Deuntae is the youngest of three children, Freddie Jr. and Spartel.

Deuntae was raised in Lexington, MS. He went to Lexington Elementary School (LES) and Jacob J. McClain High School and graduated in the top 10 from both schools. He is currently a student at Jackson State University, majoring in mathematics. His goal is to become a math teacher.

While growing up, Deuntae had a desire to teach children, probably because his mother has been a teacher all his life. He became certain in his senior year in high school that he could teach children. During high school, Deuntae joined a group called TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use). TATU is an organization that teaches students about the effects of using tobacco, the substances in tobacco, and the signs of peer pressure coming from friends and role models. It was then that Deuntae realized that he could be a good role model and that this was the key to being a good teacher and leader. Whenever he was out in the community around his peers and children, he led by example. If the smaller children wanted to play on the basketball court, he would either convince his peers to let them play on half the court or let them play with them while perhaps helping them improve their skills.

Living in the house with a teacher and a deputy taught Deuntae two important things: respect and education. Deuntae's father always told him to respect others and good things will happen and stressed to him the importance of making good grades in school. These teachings helped mold Deuntae into a respectable person and thus respecting all others.

Deuntae believes that if he had the power to help anyone he would do it. When his peers or even elementary kids asked him to help them with the classwork, he did and he was ecstatic whenever a child came back to tell him "Thank you."

Deuntae spent his high school summers at the Community Students Learning Center in Lexington, MS, where he got a head start on his learning before school started in August. At the center, he interacted with the children by playing games, talking with them, and helping them with their work, if asked.

Deuntae is now in his second semester as a junior at Jackson State University. He plans to come back home after graduation for a few years and help teach at one of the local schools or the Community Students Learning Center. His passion for teaching has heightened and he is anxious to start.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a talented student, Mr. Deuntae Sheard, for his zest for teaching and making a difference in his community.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF RONDO DAYS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the families of the Rondo neighborhood in Saint Paul, Minnesota on the 30th anniversary of the Rondo Days festival. Rondo Days offers a remembrance of this historically African-American community that was dramatically altered by the construction of U.S. Interstate 94 in the mid-1960s. More importantly, Rondo Days is a celebration of the perseverance and tenacity of the modern Rondo community, which remains a vibrant, diverse and thriving neighborhood.

For many decades, Rondo Avenue was the lively center of the African-American community in Saint Paul. Construction of U.S. Interstate 94 in the 1960s resulted in the removal of the avenue along with hundreds of homes and businesses, shattering the tight-knit community. Many families were displaced and the appearance of the neighborhood was forever changed, but the spirit of Rondo lived on. Capturing a strong desire for a community revival, in 1982, Marvin "Roger" Anderson and Floyd Smaller founded a new festival to restore the sense of kinship, stability, and community values of the old Rondo neighborhood. Rondo Days was born, growing into a major annual weekend festival drawing together thousands of residents in celebration of the community. Each year, neighbors and families come together for activities including a senior dinner, 5K walk and run, drill team competition, and the Grand Parade.

The rich legacy of old Rondo Avenue is also the foundation for the future of the new Rondo neighborhood. For decades, many families called Rondo Avenue home, and many new residents from the South were welcomed on doorsteps along the avenue. Residents were proud of their neighborhood and planted deep roots, branching out to start businesses to serve the community and create new opportunity. During a time of segregation and harsh racial disparities, Rondo Avenue allowed many African-Americans to dream big and believe in a brighter future. This pride and these dreams remain undiminished today. As Saint Paul gathers for the 30th time to celebrate Rondo Days, families and neighbors will be reunited, new friends welcomed, and everyone will be looking to an even brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the community, history, and legacy of the Rondo neighborhood, and as a neighbor myself, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing the 30th Anniversary of Rondo Days in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

HONORING THE MIAMI HEAT ON THEIR THIRD NBA CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Whereas, The Miami Heat won their third National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship in franchise history on Thursday, June 20, 2013, by defeating the San Antonio Spurs with a score of 95 to 88 in the seventh game of the NBA finals, in Miami, Florida at the American Airlines Arena;

Whereas, During the 2013 NBA playoffs, the Miami Heat defeated the Milwaukee Bucks, Chicago Bulls, Indiana Pacers, and San Antonio Spurs;

Whereas, The Miami Heat are the second team in five years to win back-to-back championships, and the Miami Heat are the first to defeat the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA finals;

Whereas, Since its founding in 1988, the Miami Heat has won three world championships, four conference titles, nine division titles, and made 17 playoff appearances;

Whereas, The 2012–2013 Miami Heat organization is comprised of players: Ray Allen, Chris Anderson, Joel Anthony, Shane Battier, Chris Bosh, Mario Chalmers, Norris Cole, Udonis Haslem, Juwan Howard, LeBron James, James Jones, Rashard Lewis, Mike Miller, Jarvis Varnado, Dwyane Wade;

Whereas, LeBron James was named the NBA Most Valuable Player during the 2012–2013 regular season, was named the NBA Most Valuable Player during the 2013 finals, and joined Michael Jordan and Bill Russell as the only players in NBA history to win back-to-back NBA finals and regular season MVP awards;

Whereas, The San Antonio Spurs were seconds away from winning the NBA finals until Ray Allen hit a clutch three-pointer, sending the game into overtime and forcing a decisive game seven;

Whereas, The Miami Heat coaching staff exhibited exemplary leadership and guidance;

Whereas, The Miami Heat coaching staff, included: Erik Spoelstra, Head Coach; Bob McAdoo, Assistant Coach; Ron Rothstein, Assistant Coach; David Fizdale, Assistant Coach; Chad Kammerer, Assistant Coach; Octavio De La Grana, Assistant Coach; Bill Foran, Strength and Conditioning Coach; Jay Sabol, Athletic Trainer; Rey Jaffet, Assistant Trainer; Rob Pimental, Assistant Trainer;

Whereas, The Miami Heat management has shown a positive commitment to the Miami Heat franchise by successfully acquiring, assembling, and maintaining a team of high-quality, winning players;

Whereas, The Miami Heat Organization consists of executive staff, including: Micky Arison, Managing General Partner; Nick Arison, Chief Executive Officer; Pat Riley, President; Erik Spoelstra, Head Coach; Eric Woolworth, President, Business Operations; Michael McCullough, Executive Vice President/CMO; Mike Walker, Executive Vice President, HEAT Group Enterprises; Alonzo Mourning, Vice President, Player Programs; Stephen Weber, Executive Vice President, Sales; Kim Stone, Executive Vice President/General Manager, American Airlines Arena; Sammy Schulman, Executive Vice President/CFO; Raquel Libman, Executive Vice President/General Counsel;

Whereas, The Miami Heat players have been outstanding role models on and off the court;

Whereas, The Miami Heat organization has enriched the South Florida community through public service programs, including: Heat Academy; Heat Scholarships; Miami Heat Read to Achieve; Miami Heat Fund-Raiser; Miami Heat Wheels; Shoot for the Stars; Books and Basketball Summer Clinics; Heat Youth Basketball; Miami Heat Learn to Swim Program;

Whereas, The Miami Heat fans have been an integral part of this championship by providing unwavering support throughout the entire season, and each and every season prior;

Whereas, The Miami Heat performance against the San Antonio Spurs during the 2013 NBA finals will go down as one the greatest series in NBA history;

Resolved, that the House of Representatives honors the entire Miami Heat organization for winning the 2013 NBA World Championship.

HONORING JAVARIS DEON RODGERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Javaris Deon Rodgers, a dedicated student, who is making the difference in his community.

Javaris Deon Rodgers was born and raised in Lexington, Mississippi. He is an only child of two very wonderful parents, Andrew and Shirley Rodgers.

Javaris began school around 6 or 7 years of age. Throughout elementary school he has always had Perfect Attendance and has been on either the Dean or Principal's List. He also received the Superintendent's Award because he excelled so well in academics. He is a very active child, taking Taekwondo and playing baseball until middle school.

Javaris joined J.J. McClain Middle School Marching Band and found a real passion for it. He knew that it was something that he wanted to do long term. Throughout high school, he continued to be a part of the marching band, maintained top grades, and keep his perfect attendance record. In high school, Javaris was also a part of the Yearbook Committee and Prom Committee. During his Junior Year in high school, he received the title "Mr. Junior", elected Senior Class President for the following year and nominated for the Who's Who Among American Scholars. Javaris graduated in the top ten of his high school class in May of 2010 and began his journey on to college that fall. He is currently in college working on a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish at Ole Miss in Oxford, MS. He is also a member of the Alpha Phi Omega Community Service Fraternity, Tau Beta Sigma Honorary Band Service Fraternity, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Javaris still does community service in the Holmes County community during his breaks. He plans to graduate in May of 2014 with honors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this student, Mr. Javaris Deon Rodgers, for his dedication in making a difference in his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ''MAMA, I WANT TO SING'' THE LONGEST RUNNING OFF-BROADWAY SHOW IN AMERICAN HISTORY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, recognize, and celebrate the MAMA Foundation's 30th Anniversary of the gospel musical "Mama, I Want to Sing." On Saturday, March 23, 2013, The Dempsey Theater hosted the 30th Anniversary Gala Celebration for "Mama, I Want To Sing," the longest running Black Off-Broadway show in American history, which debuted as a gospel musical in 1983. This Gala event, took place exactly 30 years to the day from when the original production opened in Harlem to great acclaim.

The Gala began with a very special performance that included musical highlights from "Mama, I Want to Sing and Sing, Harlem, Sing!", as well as a performance from the Gospel for Teens Choir. Lesley Stahl, who received an Emmy award for her "60 Minutes" profile on Gospel for Teens, was honored for her contributions to journalism and for her support of the Mama Foundation for the Arts. The 30th Anniversary celebration will include a gala featuring the best of Harlem's renowned restaurants including Sylvia's, Spoonbread, The Red Rooster, Corner Social, Chez Lucien, Jacob's Soul Food, Melba's and Make My Cake. The spiritually uplifting evening culminated in a spontaneous church-inspired closing with R&B divas Cissy Houston, Dionne Warwick, Angie Stone, Valerie Simpson and Crystal Aiken individually joining the Gospel for Teens Choir in a rousing version of "This Little Light of Mine" that brought the sold-out crowd to its feet.

In 1979, Vy Higginsen and her husband, Ken Wydro wrote the book and lyrics for Mama. It was rejected by every major producer in New York. Not one producer believed that the story was worth telling or that an audience could be found for a gospel-based production. Vy and Ken pushed forward and produced the now internationally-acclaimed "Mama, I Want to Sing" gospel musical that tells the story of a talented young girl who dreams of leaving her church choir to pursue a life in popular music, despite strong objections from her mother. A tribute to the many African American artists with church choir roots who rose to fame in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, creator Higginsen based her musical on the life of her sister Doris Troy whose 1963 hit "Just One Look" launched her to international fame. The show, featured original music by Wesley Naylor opened at Harlem's Hecksher Theater (at El Museo del Barrio) in 1983 and since then has become the "little red engine that could" of Off-Off Broadway productions.

In 1998, Vy Higginsen created the Mama Foundation for the Arts to present, preserve, and promote Gospel, Jazz, and R&B as art forms for current and future generations. The Mama Foundation for the Arts (MFA) has been internationally acclaimed for rebuilding Harlem as an artistic cultural center featuring entertainment and arts education. The Mama Foundation has produced a dozen theater productions, which have been performed on several continents, including its best known musical, "Mama, I Want To Sing."

In 2003, Higginsen created the School of Gospel, Jazz, and R&B Arts. Three years later, she formed the award-winning Gospel for Teens program to train youth and "save the music." According to Lesley Stahl from CBS's "60 Minutes," "The Gospel for Teens program is not just teaching gospel, it is saving these kids." Mama Foundation members have performed at numerous special events including the TED2012 Full Spectrum conference, the Congressional Black Caucus' Annual Legislative Conference, The Stellar Awards, and a reception for Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. Madonna, Chaka Khan, opera singer Jessye Norman and gospel artist Shirley Caesar are among the many stars that have shared the stage with the Gospel for Teens Choir.

In 2006, she founded Gospel for Teens, a free educational program that offers a substitute for the arts programs removed from many inner city schools. For her outstanding contributions to gospel music, she was presented with the Thomas A. Dorsey Most Notable Achievement Award at the 2012 Stellar Gospel Music Awards. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture proclaimed Vy a Harlem Hero in "Harlem Is" a public art and education project of Community Works.

Vocalist and Instructor Ahmaya Knoelle Higginsen, daughter of Vy Higginsen, is the current lead in "Mama, I Want To Sing: The Next Generation." She began her professional career at seven years old starring in 'Sing! Mama 2' with Shirley Caesar at the Theatre at Madison Square Garden and during its world tour in Japan. Ahmaya Knoelle has performed in Gospel Is . . .! and Sing, Harlem, Sing! Internationally, as well as recording on several albums. She studied at the Manhattan School of Music and the American Dramatic and Music Academy in New York. Ahmaya Knoelle also teaches private vocal instruction at the Mama Foundation for the Arts and trains young students in the Foundation's Gospel For Teens program.

The Mama Foundation's mission is to present, preserve, and promote the history and fundamentals of gospel, jazz, and rhythm and blues music for current and future generations. The Foundation has established a cultural space in Harlem where youth and adults have access to quality training and employment as performing artists. The Foundation was inspired by the worldwide success of our award-winning musical, "Mama, I Want to Sing." A combination of arts education, public workshops, and live events contribute to Harlem's resurgence as an artistic and cultural destination. I am so very appreciative for the many contributions of Vy Higginsen and the Mama Foundation. The dedication and devotion to the arts of our community is most-commendable and deserving of Congressional Recognition. I ask my colleagues and our Nation to join me in this special celebration of the 30th Anniversary of "Mama, I Want to Sing."

HONORING LOUIS NAVARRO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, throughout our nation's history our freedom has been preserved by members of the Armed Forces, and they continue to do so today. As a Member of Congress, I have consistently supported veterans and servicemen and women. They deserve no less from us. We owe the preservation of our freedoms and our way of life to the veterans who proudly served their country. Today I join the City of Yonkers at its annual Veterans Appreciation Day in honoring Louis Navarro for his long-time service and participation in the community.

He was born in Puerto Rico, but is a long-time resident of Yonkers, and is the First Vice Commander of the Central Committee of Veterans Organization, where as Parade Chairman for the 2013 Memorial Day Parade, he led it to its largest participation in recent years.

Louis Navarro served in the United States Army for nearly thirty years of active and reserve duty, receiving the Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, Expert Rifle Award, and the Army Service Ribbon.

He is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, and is active in numerous associations throughout our City, including the Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee, serving as Past Chairman. He is president of his consulting firm of Navarro and Shoub. He and his wife, Donna, have two children, Kaylan and James.

I am proud to join the City of Yonkers in honoring Louis Navarro for his service to his country and his contributions to his fellow veterans and his city.

HONORING EMANUEL D. WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Mr. Emanuel D. Williams.

Emanuel was born August 29, 1995 as the youngest of four children in Jackson, MS to Rev. Calvin Williams and Evg. Dorothy Williams. Though he has always participated in his church, community, and school in some form, he really began to get involved in his school and community during his freshman year. That's when he served as the Chaplain of the Student Government Association, and also the Organizer of daily inspirational services for the students at Weston's 9th Grade Academy in Greenville, MS. That same year he was elected the President of the House of Delta Youth Leadership Initiative, where he tutored a kindergarten student from Ray Brooks Elementary School in Benoit, MS, for two full school terms.

Furthermore, Emanuel was elected the Secretary of the Esquire Art and Civic Club, an organization that promotes and encourages young men to be active in their communities and recognize their civic duties. He continues to serve as Vice President, where he has adopted a local nursing home, thereby visiting and truly enjoying the great personalities of the elderly.

During his sophomore year, Emanuel became a member of the Mayor's Youth Council, a committee of local young people who serve as examples for peers. He participates in different community projects such as the annual clean up that boosts the removal of litter and supports the beautification of Greenville, MS. Emanuel is a member of SOARS (Schools Obtaining Academic Results for Success), a team of community stakeholders who discuss and strategize for the betterment of the school, community, state, and world. He also continues to make his mark in the world by volunteering in his community and local elections where he promotes the exercising of the right to vote. As a graduating senior of the class of 2013, he looks forward to attending college where he can pursue a law career advocating for education, and creating policies and laws as a public servant to make education better and affordable for all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Emanuel D. Williams for his determination and dedication to serving others and giving back to his community.

HONORING MRS. MARY L. HARVEY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Mrs. Mary L. Harvey—who devoted her long career in Baltimore County government to preserving and improving communities—on the occasion of the posthumous dedication of the ''Center-Piece Family Arts Center'' in her name.

A lifelong resident of Perry Hall, Mrs. Harvey graduated from Perry Hall High School in 1976 and from the Community College of Baltimore County in Dundalk in 1986. She became active in eastern Baltimore County politics and worked as a legislative aide to the Baltimore County Council for eight years.

After witnessing first-hand her tireless drive and passion for helping people, I appointed Mrs. Harvey to the position of Eastern Sector Coordinator within the Office of Community Conservation during my tenure as Baltimore County Executive. Her excellent work twice earned her promotions: first, as manager of revitalization efforts and then director of the office. Mrs. Harvey was reappointed to the position and retained it until 2010.

Mrs. Harvey was a true visionary. Under her leadership, Baltimore County embraced the concept of the ''Urban Design Assistance Team,'' which encourages input from community members. She also oversaw the construction of three new community centers and developed partnerships with local businesses that lead to safer affordable living communities for thousands of county residents. Her constant goal was to create neighborhoods that were vibrant, attractive and family-friendly. She had a special compassion for the homeless and coordinated a 10-year plan to eradicate it in Baltimore County.

Mrs. Harvey's accolades were many. She was the Baltimore County Commission for Women's ''Woman of the Year'' in 1995 and received the ''Renaissance Milestone Award'' from the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation in 2010. She served on the boards of the Essex Community College Foundation, the Essex-Middle River-White Marsh Chamber of Commerce and the Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Mary L. Harvey, whose legacy of service to the families of Baltimore County continues today. I have many happy memories of working with Mrs. Harvey and wish to thank her family for their support during her years in county government. I could not think of a more appropriate or well-deserved namesake for this beautiful new facility in one of Mrs. Harvey's favorite communities.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $16,738,281,074,058.77. We've added $6,111,404,035,145.69 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is $6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REQUIRE NOTICE OF EXCESS REAL PROPERTY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to make the General Services Administration (GSA) a more transparent federal agency.

This bill would require GSA to provide public notice of excess properties as soon as they are identified by federal agencies as such. Although excess properties will continue to be offered to other federal agencies before going through the normal property disposal process, this early notice to all, including federal agencies, the larger community and Congress, will increase transparency in how the federal government manages its property. The Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management has had difficulty ensuring that GSA acts as soon as possible to dispose of properties it has determined to be excess. GSA's practice of delaying notice of unused properties to the public while it informs federal agencies only furthers existing delay by GSA in moving either to use or dispose of property for the benefit of taxpayers. Importantly, the early public notice required by this bill also will provide the opportunity for local communities to plan for possible disposal of the property.

Recent hearings held by two different subcommittees documented how delayed notice had resulted in inaction by GSA, which did not move on the problem until the hearings were called. With silence from GSA about a long-vacant but large and valuable property, residents in the burgeoning M Street Southeast area of the District of Columbia went to the trouble of creating a professional proposal for redeveloping the property, as revealed in the hearing.

Both the Administration and the House, where two property disposal bills are pending, have weighed in on GSA's poor asset management and missed market opportunities, which continue to cost taxpayers significant sums of money. There are significant costs associated with GSA's vacant or underperforming assets, including for operation, maintenance and security. For this reason, in 2003, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) placed real property management on its list of ''high risk'' government activities, where it remains today. GAO conducts biennial reviews of the federal government to highlight specific areas needing added attention and oversight. Programs are identified as ''high risk'' due to their greater vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement or due to the need for broad-based transformation to address major challenges.

Still, the periodic GAO reviews, executive orders and memoranda issued during this and

the prior administration, and acts of Congress have not brought significantly improved management of federal real property. My bill would ensure that Congress, local communities and federal agencies have the earliest notice that federal properties may become available, and would be a further tool to foster earlier and more efficient property disposal.

TRIBUTE TO MISS GABRIELLE NICOLE TERRETT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of MIssissippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a multi-talented young lady, Miss Gabrielle Nicole Terrett.

Gabrielle Nicole Terrett is the 14 year old daughter of Dr. Andre' and Attorney Toni Terrett. She is the eldest of five and a 9th grader at Warren Central High School in Vicksburg.

Gabrielle is an all around student that has excelled in both academics and extracurricular activities. She is a member of the Warren Central Big Blue Band flute section. She also plays the violin and has performed at local nursing homes over the years. Gabrielle has received several awards including placing 1st in Jewelry in the Hobbs-Freeman Art Competion-2012, 2nd place in the Hobbs-Freeman Art competition-2012, 2nd place in the 2013 Blacks in Government Oratorical Contest, 3rd in the 2012 NAACP essay contest, and 2nd Runner Up in the 2013 Miss Southland Pageant.

Gabrielle volunteers at the Mountain of Faith Women's Shelter Retail Store. As a volunteer she helps stock shelves, organize the store and assist customers to the store. She is very pleasant to work with and supports the Women's Shelter as often as possible. In her spare time she enjoys quiet time reading, preparing for pageants, and shopping.

She is a faithful member of Pleasant Green Baptist Church in Vicksburg, MS where she is active in Sunday school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Miss Gabrielle Nicole Terrett for her hard work, dedication and a strong desire to achieve.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013 (H.R. 1947)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I remain in strong opposition to the House Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013 (H.R. 1947) otherwise known as the 'Farm Bill'. On June 20, 2013, I along with the majority of my colleagues voted against House Republican's extreme bill. Now farmers in Minnesota and across this country are depending on Congress to reach a bipartisan agreement that will continue to grow our agricultural economy and enable us to best meet our future agriculture needs.

In the past, the Farm Bill has received strong bipartisan support. Members of Congress from both rural and urban districts found common ground to support our agriculture sector, keep food affordable, and continue investments in agricultural research. However, this year the House Republican Leadership chose to put partisan politics before the best interests of our farmers, ranchers, and communities.

The bill that I voted against included an unprecedented cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Of the almost $40 billion in cuts, more than half come from a devastating reduction to the nutrition assistance for poor children, seniors, and persons with disabilities. An estimated 38,000 Minnesotans and nearly 2 million Americans would lose their SNAP benefits entirely and 210,000 children would no longer receive free meals at school.

In June, along with Congressman ELLISON, I hosted a listening discussion on the impact that these cuts would have on Minnesotans. The audience heard from state and county officials, faith leaders, community service providers, and individuals that receive SNAP. The testimony, often emotional, demonstrated the clear need for SNAP to ensure individuals are able to access healthy food.

Patricia Lull, Executive Director of the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches, spoke of the growing need that churches in Minnesota have witnessed. She told us, "We come from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Unitarian, and Quaker backgrounds, but every one of our faith traditions agrees with this conviction—No more hungry neighbors!"

Evelyn, a Minnesota senior and diabetic, recently began receiving SNAP benefits. She told us about how the rising cost of her medications had thrown her into Medicare Part D's donut hole and forced her to cut her expenses as low as she could. According to Evelyn, without SNAP she would be unable to afford the healthy meals she needs to keep her diabetes in check. She was already worried about how she would cope with the estimated 4% reduction that will take effect this November. If she was no longer eligible for SNAP, she told us she wouldn't know what to do.

In addition to the cuts already included in the bill, Tea-Party Republicans added polarizing amendments that would make it even more difficult to qualify for SNAP. One of the amendments would give states the ability to require all SNAP applicants to submit to drug testing. Another allowed states to require parents and some persons with disabilities to meet work requirements in order to qualify for SNAP. These destructive amendments would create new barriers for struggling Americans to access nutrition assistance, while doing nothing to improve efficiency or reduce fraud. Simply, Tea-Party Republicans voted to make a bad bill even worse.

After failing to pass their own bill, the House Republican Leadership has an obligation to move forward a bipartisan Farm Bill that does not harm our poorest Americans. I call on the House Republican Majority to bring the Senate passed bipartisan Farm Bill (S. 954) to the floor for an up or down vote. While not perfect, the Senate-passed bill includes commonsense reforms to outdated programs, makes modest changes to SNAP, reaffirms our commitment to conservation, and eliminates wasteful spending.

Minnesota farmers are depending on Congress to act swiftly and pass a long-term Farm Bill before the current extension expires. Together, Democrats and Republicans can pass the Senate's Farm Bill before summer's end and give certainty to America's farmers, ranchers, and consumers.

TRIBUTE TO JOCELYN TAYLOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Jocelyn Taylor.

Ms. Taylor is the daughter of Mr. Marlin and Mrs. Rosalind Taylor of Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Ms. Taylor is a senior at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. As a child she has been focused, outgoing and dedicated to whatever she desires to achieve. During her tenure at I.T. Montgomery Elementary School in Mound Bayou, Mississippi her endeavors were to always better herself and become more than a statistic and has carried that mindset during her journey through high school.

Ms. Taylor is active in the Future Business Leaders of America which is a non-profit organization of high school and college students as well as professional members' who primarily assist students' in transitioning in the business/entrepreneur environment. As a member she has participated in various competitions and has won numerous recognitions and awards.

Ms. Taylor is active in the Bolivar County Community Action Agency's Senior Select Program. This program gives senior high school students the opportunity to intern at various community businesses to learn professional skills and techniques and to showcase their skills, while encouraging the importance of school attendance and giving back to their respective communities. I have had the honor of having her intern in my Mound Bayou District Office and found her to be a dedicated and outstanding intern and volunteer.

Ms. Taylor strives to be a positive example for her two younger siblings Joshua and Jordan. She credits her parents for their influence in her life as they encourage her to reach her full potential. Her late grandmother, Ms. Mary Alice Sinclair, was an inspiration in her life and gave her great tips on life and how to survive as a young lady.

Ms. Taylor has received numerous educational certificates and awards. Upon graduating in May 2013, she will further her education at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi to pursue a degree in Business Administration and become an entrepreneur.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Jocelyn Taylor for her dedication in being an outstanding student.

RECOGNIZING KITSAP COUNTY BUSINESSWOMAN AMY IGLOI ON RECEIVING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON BUSINESS

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amy Igloi of Kitsap County for receiving the "Community Service Award" from the Association of Washington Business. Ms. Igloi is the General Manager of "Amy's on the Bay Restaurant and Bar" in downtown Port Orchard, WA.

Amy Igloi has owned and operated her business in Port Orchard for seven years and currently employs 22 local residents. "Amy's on the Bay" feeds approximately 70,000 customers annually and is a cornerstone business on the Port Orchard waterfront. "Amy's on the Bay" is widely known throughout the Puget Sound region as having some of finest cuisine in the area—especially the crab cakes and burgers.

Ms. Igloi and her business have been recognized this year by the Association of Washington Business for their dedication to Port Orchard, Kitsap County, and its residents. Numerous community organizations have directly benefitted from the donations generated by Ms. Igloi and her team, including those that serve the homeless, special needs, and elderly populations.

Mr. Speaker, in our economic situation, communities depend on citizens like Amy Igloi to help ensure that vulnerable populations are taken care of in tough times.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, I can say with confidence that residents of Port Orchard and Kitsap County have greatly benefitted from the civic and philanthropic contributions of Amy Igloi and her staff. I applaud her recent award and am grateful that she continues to serve wonderful meals and employ citizens in Kitsap County, Washington.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WILLIAMS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant, who is no stranger to hard work, Mr. John Williams, Sr.

John Williams, Sr. is a lifelong resident of Rolling Fork, Mississippi and was born on July 15, 1953 to David and Mary Brown. He is a graduate of Henry Weathers High School located in Rolling Fork, MS.

John has been employed with the City of Rolling Fork for about 24 years. He is a volunteer fireman for the City of Rolling Fork.

John is married to DeLinda Williams and they have five children: John, Jr., Lee Odoms, Renea Flood, Keith Flood and Wanda Jackson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. John Williams, Sr. for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the community in which he was born and raised.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce three bills to modernize the Smithsonian Institution and to enhance its governance and fundraising capabilities, in keeping with the recommendations of a number of experts, including the Smithsonian Independent Review Committee, chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher. This bill, the Smithsonian Modernization Act, makes changes to the Smithsonian's governance structure by expanding and changing the composition of its Board of Regents, from 17 members, which includes six Members of Congress, the Vice President of the United States, and the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, to 21 members, comprised solely of private citizens. This change will strengthen both the Smithsonian's governance and fundraising capacity, and it is the first significant change in this old and revered institution since it was established in 1846. The second bill, the Smithsonian Free Admission Act of 2013, seeks to preserve the long-standing free admission policy for permanent exhibits at an institution that is largely funded by the federal government, as envisioned by James Smithson, its founder. Finally, the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act of 2013 will apply the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act to the Smithsonian in the same manner they apply to federal agencies.

The Smithsonian Institution is an irreplaceable cultural, scientific, historical, educational and artistic complex without any public or private counterpart in the world. Since its founding, the Smithsonian has developed an extraordinary array of world-class museums, galleries, educational showplaces and unique research centers, including 19 museums and galleries, nine research facilities, the National Zoo, and the forthcoming National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is now under construction. The Smithsonian has grown with private funding and donations from American culture and life, but most of its funding continues to come from federal appropriations. Despite receiving 70 percent of its funding from the federal government, the Smithsonian has long had serious infrastructure and other needs.

Congress must help the Smithsonian strengthen its ability to build resources beyond what taxpayers are able to provide. The most important step Congress could take today is to rescue the Smithsonian from its 19th-century governance structure, which keeps it from accessing needed and available private resources and limits close and critical oversight. The Smithsonian Modernization Act provides a governance structure befitting the Smithsonian's unique complexity. The difficulties the Smithsonian has faced result in part from the limitations inherent in its antiquated governance structure. The existing structure may have fit the Smithsonian over 170 years ago, but today the structure has proven to be a relic that does a disservice to the Smithsonian. The present governance structure places immense responsibility on dedicated but overextended Members of the House and Senate, the Vice President of the United States and the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. These federal officials comprise almost half of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, and must perform their fiduciary duties as board members while giving first priority to their sworn responsibilities as important federal officials.

In 2007, an independent review committee found that the Board had violated principles of good management during the tenure of former Secretary of the Smithsonian Lawrence Small allowing him to create an "insular culture." The committee's report indicated that the Board had failed to provide desperately needed oversight and had overcompensated Mr. Small. The report also found that Sheila P. Burke, the Smithsonian's then-deputy secretary and chief operating officer, had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than $1.2 million over six years. Further, the Smithsonian's then-business ventures chief, Gary Beer, was dismissed for financial indiscretions. This crisis, caused by unprecedented controversies and irresponsible risks, put into sharp focus the need for new revenue streams and for a modern governance structure. The first full-blown scandal in the Smithsonian's history, replete with embarrassing media coverage, damaged its reputation and perhaps the confidence of potential contributors. The poor judgment and overreaching of Smithsonian personnel during that period requires new and concentrated oversight by citizens for whom the Smithsonian would command priority attention.

The Board, of course, has taken some important action on its own. After irregularities were uncovered by the media, the Board responded to the controversies by creating a governance committee, chaired by Patty Stonesifer, a Regent and former chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with a mandate to comprehensively review the policies and practices of the Smithsonian and how the Board conducts its oversight of the institution. The Board also established an Independent Review Committee (IRC), chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles A. Bowsher, to review the issues arising from an Inspector General's report and the Board's response, and related Smithsonian practices.

The IRC was forthright in its investigation and recommendations. The IRC stated explicitly that the root cause of the problems at the Smithsonian was an antiquated governance structure, which led to failures in governance and management. According to the IRC, the Board must assume a fiduciary duty that carries a "major commitment of time and effort, a reputational risk, and potentially, financial liability." The IRC further argued that the Smithsonian, with a budget of over $1 billion a year, must have Board members who "act as true fiduciaries and who have both the time and the experience to assume the responsibilities of setting strategy and providing oversight." The IRC cited a lack of clarity in the roles of the Vice President of the United States and Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court on

the Board, and said that "it is not feasible to expect the Chief Justice to devote the hours necessary to serve as a fiduciary agent." The same observation could be made of the Members of the House and Senate who serve on the Board. The IRC recommended that the Board increase the level of expertise and the number of members to ensure that the Board has sufficient time and attention to dedicate to the Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian's own governance committee identified several Board weaknesses, concluding that the Board did not receive or demand the reports necessary for competent decision-making, that the staff whom the Board depended upon for oversight inquiries did not have direct access to information, and that the inability of staff to communicate red flags "crippled" internal compliance and oversight.

Only Congress, with the concurrence of the president, can amend the Smithsonian Charter. The last change to the Board's structure occurred over 30 years ago, but it only increased the number of private citizens on the Board from six to nine.

The number of Regents, however, is not the root problem. Although the bill expands the Board from 17 to 21 members, most importantly, it brings the Board into alignment with modern public and private boards by requiring all Regents to be private citizens. The search for private funds by Smithsonian management was a major cause of the recent controversy. Faced with crippling budget problems, the Regents must be free to give new and unprecedented attention and energy to finding and helping to raise substantially more funds from private sources. The new structure envisioned by the bill will improve oversight and the capacity for fundraising from private sources. Unlike federal officials on the Board, private citizens on the Board are entirely free to assist in private fundraising. Most importantly, private citizens have sufficient expertise to serve on the Board, and are able to devote the personal time and attention necessary to fulfill the fiduciary responsibility that comes with serving such a venerable and complex institution.

The bill preserves and strengthens the traditional role of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate in selecting Board members while eliminating the self-perpetuating role of the Board in selecting private citizens for the Board. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate will each send 12 recommendations to the President of the United States, who will select the 21 members of the Board from those recommendations.

Considering the seriousness of the findings of the Board's own governance committee and of the IRC, the changes prescribed by the bill are nothing short of necessary. The reform of the fiduciary and governance issues that have brought public criticism to this iconic American institution must begin with the indispensable step of making the Smithsonian's governance consistent with that of other institutions today. Only congressional attention can reassure the public that the controversies that recently besieged the Smithsonian will not recur. In the face of an unprecedented public controversy, Congress would be remiss if it left the Smithsonian to its own oversight and devices alone for improvement.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

HONORING MS. MARKEISHA S. ROBINSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Ms. Markeisha S. Robinson.

In May 2012, Markeisha received her high school diploma as an Honor Graduate from Greenville Weston High School, in Greenville, MS. Additionally, she was crowned Miss Kappa Alpha Psi 2012–2013. During her senior year, she was afforded the opportunity to complete collegiate courses. She accepted the opportunity, worked extremely hard to not only complete the advanced level courses, but to do so with a 3.89 GPA. The fruit of her labor paid off, when she arrived at Jackson State University (JSU) with eighteen hours, being classified as a second semester freshman.

Although brief, Markeisha's tenure at JSU has been filled with challenges, successes and retrospect. She has come to appreciate the results of hard work. She joined MADDRAMA, a JSU performing arts group. The rigors of preparation and rehearsals coupled with determination and drive have proven to be her foundation.

Markeisha is a sophomore and Dean's List Scholar from Greenville, Mississippi. She is a public speaker majoring in Communicative Disorders. Upon completion of her degree, she plans to become a speech pathologist providing tips, techniques and skills to enable the speech impaired to overcome such disorders through individualized sessions at her private practice.

As a student, her strengths are dedication and determination. She is dedicated to her class work and extracurricular activities. Also, she is determined to reach her goals, graduate from college in three years, and continue her education by pursuing a Master's Degree in Speech Pathology.

Markeisha is a very optimistic person. Her favorite scripture in The Bible is "Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Markeisha S. Robinson for her determination and dedication to serving others and giving back to her community.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN B. CARTER JR.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize a close friend, former classmate and fraternity brother of mine, Mr. John B. Carter Jr., on his recent retirement. On June 30, 2013, John retired as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Georgia Tech Foundation (GTF). The Georgia Tech Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation which manages the philanthropic gifts given to the Georgia Institute of Technology by alumni, corporations, foundations, staff, faculty, students, family, and friends in support of academic excellence and tradition.

John graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1970. For the past 14 years, he has led the Foundation's day-to-day operations and has been responsible for 175,000 alumni data records, accounting and financial reporting, legal issues and negotiations, administration, and Executive, Committee, Board, and Trustee relations. Prior to leading the Foundation, John served 16 years as Vice President and Executive Director of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association and served our nation for six years in the U.S. Navy. His 30 years of dedicated service to our alma mater is rare and to be commended. John's leadership has influenced many through his devotion, fortitude, and kindness, and will be set apart in the years to come. I am grateful for his example of service and for his friendship.

The Georgia Institute of Technology and the Georgia Tech Foundation are fortunate to have such dedicated and innovative alumnus professionals as John B. Carter Jr. His commitment to excellence, leadership and service is to be admired, and may it inspire others to follow in his footsteps. My sincerest wishes and congratulations to him on his retirement.

HONORING RICHARD MICHALSKI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of my friend Richard P. Michalski. After over four decades of loyal and dedicated service, Mr. Michalski has retired from his position as General Vice President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM).

Mr. Michalski is an example of an American success story. He began his long time association with IAM in 1968 as member of the IAM Local Lodge 1916 while working as a welder with General Electric in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He climbed the ranks and moved up to Local Lodge President.

Rich Michalski has dedicated his life to promoting workers as he served in various positions with the IAM. In 1992, he became IAM's Director of Legislative and Political Action Department. It was in this position that he served as a champion of the rights of working men and women by advocating for their concerns with Members of Congress and relentlessly pursuing their interests in Congress.

Mr. Michalski's became a member of IAM's Executive Board in 2006 where he served as the General Vice President and continued to fight for the advancement of workers across the United States.

I want to extend my warmest and most sincere thanks to Rich for his lifelong devotion to American Labor. Thank you for your friendship and your counsel. Truly the great cause of our time is to help protect the American Dream for working men and women who built this nation. I am proud to have joined with Rich in the cause. Rich's long and illustrious career from humble beginnings as a welder to the leadership of one of the world's great unions will not be forgotten and I congratulate him and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SERGEANT JAVIER SANCHEZ, JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Army Sergeant Javier Sanchez, Jr., 28, of Greenfield, California, who died when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle on a combat patrol on June 23, 2013 in Sar Rowzah, Afghanistan.

Javier was a graduate of the Greenfield High School and joined the Army in August 2006 serving in Baumholder, Germany, Fort Irwin, California and most recently in Fort Drum, New York. Javier was an infantryman and had previously deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2007 to 2008 with 1–6 Infantry of the 1st Armored Division. In his current assignment Javier was with the Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team based at Fort Drum, New York.

He is a hero to his family, the city of Greenfield, the State of California, and the people of the United States and we express our deepest gratitude for his service to our country. As his uncle most recently stated, "He always had this 'country first' attitude and I think that's what made him sign up." In the face of war, this is the truest definition of courage and character, an example that all soldiers should strive emulate. His selfless act is one that will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire House, I would like to extend the nation's deepest sympathies to Javier's wife Cassandra Sanchez, his mother Margarita Sanchez, and his father Javier Sanchez, Sr. Sergeant Javier Sanchez, Jr. served his nation honorably, and sacrificed his life. He is an American hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to cast votes on Monday, July 8, 2013 due to inclement weather that prevented me from making it to Washington, DC.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO NAME THE U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill, at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard, to direct the General Services Administration to name the new U.S. Coast Guard headquarters, on the St. Elizabeths West Campus, the "Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building." Signalman First Class Douglas Albert Munro is the U.S. Coast Guard's only Medal of Honor recipient. Signalman First Class Munro died heroically on Point Cruz, Guadalcanal after succeeding in his assignment, for which he had volunteered, to evacuate a detachment of Marines that had been overwhelmed by the enemy.

On September 27, 1942, after making preliminary plans for the evacuation of nearly 500 beleaguered Marines from Point Cruz, Guadalcanal, Signalman First Class Munro, under attack by enemy machineguns on the island, led five small boats toward the shore. As he closed onto the beach, he signaled the other boats to land. Then, in order to draw the enemy's fire from a western attack and protect the boat heavily loaded with the Marines, he placed his boat as a shield between the beachhead and the enemy. When the evacuation was nearly completed, Signalman First Class Munro was killed by enemy fire. Due to his outstanding leadership and willingness to sacrifice his own life, Signalman First Class Munro and his fellow members of the U.S. Coast Guard undoubtedly saved the lives of many service men that otherwise would have been killed in the line of duty.

Signalman First Class Munro was educated at South Cle Elum Grade School in Washington state, and graduated from Cle Elum High School in 1937. He attended Central Washington College of Education for a year and left to enlist in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1939. He had an outstanding record as an enlisted man and was promoted rapidly through the various ratings to a Signalman First Class. In addition to being a Medal of Honor recipient, Signalman First Class Munro was also posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal, and was eligible for the American Defense Service Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

The new U.S. Coast Guard headquarters building, which I propose to be named for Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro, will be 1.1 million square feet and will house up to 3,700 U.S. Coast Guard employees. The U.S. Coast Guard headquarters building represents the first phase of the eventual consolidation of 4.5 million square feet of office space scattered around the National Capital Region to the West Campus of the old St. Elizabeths Hospital, located in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, D.C. The Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation construction project marks the first time the federal government will locate a federal agency east of the Anacostia River.

I believe that Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro's outstanding service to his country and his unique status as the only member of the U.S. Coast Guard to earn the Medal of Honor ensure that it is particularly fitting to name the new U.S. Coast Guard headquarters the "Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen personal reasons, on June 28, 2013 I was not present to vote on final passage of H.R. 2231—the "Offshore Energy and Jobs Act." If present I would have voted "nay."

Domestic energy production is thriving under the Obama Administration's "all of the above" energy strategy. In 2012, American oil production reached the highest level in two decades, and natural gas production reached an all-time high while U.S. oil imports fell to the lowest level in nearly 20 years. Our current energy policies are leading to U.S. energy independence and reducing our reliance on Middle East oil. I am committed to promoting safe and responsible domestic oil and gas development, but H.R. 2231 is an irresponsible plan to expand offshore drilling without proper environmental protections and considerations.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance

To hold hearings to examine stopping fraudulent robocall scams, focusing on if more can be done.

SR–253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine repealing the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) and the path forward, focusing on a view from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

SD–215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 815, to prohibit the employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and any pending nominations.

SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine lessons learned from the Boston Marathon bombings, focusing on preparing for and responding to the attack.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patricia Ann Millett, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Gregory Howard Woods, to be United States District Judge for the

Southern District of New York, Elizabeth A. Wolford, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, and Debra M. Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.
SD–226

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine building job opportunities for veterans.
SH–216

2 p.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine diabetes research, focusing on reducing the burden of diabetes at all ages and stages.
SDG–50

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine Smithfield, focusing on foreign purchases of American food companies.
SD–562

JULY 11

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense operations conducted pursuant to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force and the presidential policy guidance on counterterrorism.
SVC–217

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 1237, to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas.
SD–366

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.
SD–106

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine assessing the transition in Afghanistan.
SD–419

11 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine mitigating systemic risk through Wall Street reforms.
SD–538

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Byron Todd Jones, of Minnesota, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and Stuart F. Delery, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice, Todd M. Hughes, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, Colin Stirling Bruce, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois, Sara Lee Ellis, and Andrea R. Wood, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Madeline Hughes Haikala, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.
SD–226

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Victoria Nuland, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, Douglas Edward Lute, of Indiana, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and Daniel Brooks Baer, of Colorado, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador, all of the Department of State.
SD–419

2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

JULY 15

3 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine strategic sourcing, focusing on leveraging the government's buying power to save billions.
SD–342

JULY 16

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on the situation in Syria.
SVC–217

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine how United States gasoline and fuel prices are being affected by the current boom in domestic oil production and the restructuring of the United States refining industry and distribution system.
SD–366

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine S. 980, to provide for enhanced embassy security.
SD–419

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water and Power
To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study.
SD–366

JULY 17

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To receive a closed briefing on the major threats facing Navy forces and the Navy's current and projected capabilities to meet those threats.
SVC–217

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.
SH–216

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 235, to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and S. 920, to allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land.
SD–628

3 p.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine small business tax reform, focusing on making the tax code work for entrepreneurs and startups.
SR–428A

JULY 18

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of General Martin E. Dempsey, USA for reappointment to the grade of general and reappointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN for reappointment to the grade of admiral and reappointment as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, both of the Department of Defense.
SH–216

AUGUST 1

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the November 6, 2012 referendum on the political status of Puerto Rico and the Administration's response.
SD–366

SEPTEMBER 11

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2014 for the Federal Communications Commission.
SD–138

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5513–S5530

Measures Introduced: One bill was introduced, as follows: S. 1269. **Page S5526**

Measures Passed:

Organization of American States Revitalization and Reform Act: Senate passed S. 793, to support revitalization and reform of the Organization of American States. **Pages S5529–30**

Measures Considered:

Keep Student Loans Affordable Act–Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1238, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the current reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans for 1 year, to modify required distribution rules for pension plans. **Pages S5513–14, S5522–24**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, July 10, 2013. **Pages S5522–24**

Dorsey Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, July 9, 2013, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Jennifer A. Dorsey, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, and there be one hour of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form, and that all other provisions of the order of Thursday, June 27, 2013 remain in effect. **Page S5530**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 88 yeas (Vote No. EX. 169), Gregory Alan Phillips, of Wyoming, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit. **Pages S5519–22, S5530**

Messages from the House: **Pages S5525–26**

Measures Referred: **Page S5526**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S5526**

Executive Communications: **Page S5526**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5526–28**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S5528**

Additional Statements: **Page S5525**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Pages S5528–29**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5529**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—169) **Page S5522**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5530.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 2611–2627; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 43–44; and H.Res. 289 were introduced. **Pages H4212–13**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4214–15**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed on July 2, 2013 as follows:

H.R. 2609, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–135) and

H.R. 2610, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–136).

Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 697, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project Site, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–137);

H.R. 761, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–138, Pt. 1);

H.R. 1411, to include the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands in the California Coastal National Monument as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–139);

H.R. 1497, to amend title 36, United States Code, to ensure that memorials commemorating the service of the United States Armed Forces may contain religious symbols, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 113–140);

H.R. 1574, to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to rename a site of the park (H. Rept. 113–141);

H.R. 1564, to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to prohibit the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from requiring public companies to use specific auditors or require the use of different auditors on a rotating basis, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–142);

Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2014 (H. Rept. 113–143); and H. Res. 288, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2609) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–144). **Page H4212**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Womack to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4179**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:14 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m. **Page H4181**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Financial Competitive Act of 2013: H.R. 1341, amended, to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to conduct a study of the likely effects of the differences between the United States and other jurisdictions in implementing the derivatives credit valuation adjustment capital requirement, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 353 yeas to 24 nays, Roll No. 305; **Pages H4181–82, H4186**

Audit Integrity and Job Protection Act: H.R. 1564, amended, to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to prohibit the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from requiring public companies to use specific auditors or require the use of different auditors on a rotating basis, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 321 yeas to 62 nays, Roll No. 306; and **Pages H4182–84, H4186–87**

FOR VETS Act of 2013: H.R. 1171, to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve veterans service organizations access to Federal surplus personal property, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 387 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 307. **Pages H4184–85, H4187–88**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:06 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H4185**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4186, H4187, H4187–88. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MAKING MEDICAID WORK FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Making Medicaid Work for the Most Vulnerable". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2014

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2609, ''Making appropriations for Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes''. The Committee granted, by voice vote, an open rule for H.R. 2609. 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 waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have pre-printed their amendments in the Congressional Record. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Frelinghuysen and Kaptur.

ONGOING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities''. This was a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, 11 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John H. Thompson, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Census, Department of Commerce, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of James B. Comey, Jr., of Connecticut, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of July 9 through July 12, 2013

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at 11 a.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Jennifer A. Dorsey, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 12 p.m.

On *Wednesday*, Senate expects to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1238, Keep Student Loans Affordable Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: July 10, to hold hearings to examine Smithfield, focusing on foreign purchases of American food companies, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

Committee on Appropriations: July 9, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, 11 a.m., SD–138.

July 11, Full Committee, business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, and the Legislative Branch, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: July 11, to receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense operations conducted pursuant to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force and the presidential policy guidance on counterterrorism, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 11, to hold hearings to examine mitigating systemic risk through Wall Street reforms, 11 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: July 10, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance, to hold hearings to examine stopping fraudulent robocall scams, focusing on if more can be done, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: July 11, to hold hearings to examine S. 1237, to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: July 10, to hold hearings to examine repealing the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) and the path forward, focusing on a view from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: July 11, to hold hearings to examine assessing the transition in Afghanistan, 10 a.m., SD–419.

July 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Victoria Nuland, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs,

Douglas Edward Lute, of Indiana, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and Daniel Brooks Baer, of Colorado, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador, all of the Department of State, 2:15 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: July 10, business meeting to consider S. 815, to prohibit the employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and any pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: July 9, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John H. Thompson, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Census, Department of Commerce, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

July 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine lessons learned from the Boston Marathon bombings, focusing on preparing for and responding to the attack, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: July 9, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of James B. Comey, Jr., of Connecticut, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

July 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patricia Ann Millett, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Gregory Howard Woods, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Elizabeth A. Wolford, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, and Debra M. Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, 10 a.m., SD–226.

July 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Byron Todd Jones, of Minnesota, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and Stuart F. Delery, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice, Todd M. Hughes, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, Colin Stirling Bruce, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois, Sara Lee Ellis, and Andrea R. Wood, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Madeline Hughes Haikala, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, 11 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: July 9, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

July 11, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: July 10, to hold hearings to examine diabetes research, focusing on reducing the burden of diabetes at all ages and stages, 2 p.m., SDG–50.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, July 9, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, markup on appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

July 10, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, markup on appropriations for Financial Services and General Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, 9:30 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

July 10, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science and Related Agencies, markup on appropriations for Commerce, Justice, and Science and related agencies, 11 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, July 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Keeping College Within Reach: Improving Higher Education through Innovation'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Examining the Labor Department's Proposed Reforms to the FECA Program'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, July 9, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing on H.R. 1900, the ''Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

July 9, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, markup on the following: H.R. 1582, the ''Energy Consumers Relief Act of 2013''; H.R. 1900, the ''Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act''; and H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop an action plan to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States, 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

July 9, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Cyber Espionage and the Theft of U.S. Intellectual Property and Technology'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, continued markup on the following: H.R. 1582, the ''Energy Consumers Relief Act of 2013''; H.R. 1900, the ''Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act''; and H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop an action plan to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States, 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

July 11, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, hearing entitled ''Regulation of New Chemicals, Protection of Confidential Business Information, and Innovation'', 9:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

July 11, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Improving FCC Process'', 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, July 9, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Examining How the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Collects and Uses Consumer Data'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

July 9, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Examining Constitutional Deficiencies and Legal Uncertainties in the Dodd-Frank Act'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled ''Reducing Barriers to Capital Formation, Part II'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, July 9, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''Learning from Iraq: A Final Report from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 9, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled ''Cambodia's Looming Political and Social Crisis'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; and Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, joint hearing entitled ''The Terrorist Threat in North Africa: Before and After Benghazi'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing entitled ''The Abu Dhabi Pre-Clearance Facility: Implications for U.S. Businesses and National Security'', 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 11, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''The State Department 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report'', 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, July 9, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communication, hearing entitled ''Emergency MGMT 2.0: How #SocialMedia and New Tech are Transforming Preparedness, Response, and Recovery #Disasters #Part2 #Govt/NGOs'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

July 9, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, hearing entitled ''Threat to the Homeland: Iran's Extending Influence in the Western Hemisphere'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

July 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Assessing Attacks on the Homeland: From Fort Hood to Boston'', 9 a.m., 311 Cannon. A portion of this hearing may be closed.

Committee on the Judiciary, July 9, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing on H.R. 2122, the ''Regulatory Accountability Act of 2013'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, markup on H.R. 1493, the ''Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2013''; and H.R. 2542, the ''Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2013'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

July 11, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing on the ''Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act of 2013'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, July 9, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, hearing entitled ''Public Impact of Closing Amenities at Yosemite National Park'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

July 9, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''Mining in America: Powder River Basin Coal Mining the Benefits and Challenges'', 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

July 11, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''America's Helium Supply: Options for Producing More Helium from Federal Lands'', 9:30 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

July 11, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulations, hearing entitled ''Wildfire and Forest Management'', 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, July 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Unaccountable Government GAO Reports Show Feds Struggling to Track Money and Performance'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and the Census, hearing entitled ''The Combined Federal Campaign: Making Every Dollar Count'', 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, July 9, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 761, the ''National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, July 9, Subcommittee on Environment, markup on H.R. 2413, the ''Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2013'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Space, markup on committee print of the ''NASA Authorization Act of 2013'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled ''Strategic Planning for National Manufacturing Competitiveness'', 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

July 11, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''Oversight and Management of Department of Energy National Laboratories and Science Activities'', 9:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, July 9, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access, hearing entitled ''American Competitiveness Worldwide: Impacts on Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

July 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Beyond the Beltway: Successful State Strategies for Small Business Growth'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, July 9, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled ''The Role of Innovative Finance in Intercity Passenger Rail'', 10 a.m., 2165 Rayburn.

July 10, Full Committee, markup of the following: H.R. 1848, the ''Small Airplane Revitalization Act of 2013''; H.R. 2576, to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify requirements relating to the availability of pipeline safety regulatory documents, and for other purposes; and legislation regarding the following: Public Buildings Savings and Reform Act of 2013; a bill to designate the United States Coast Guard Headquarters the ''Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building''; a concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run; and a General Services Administration Resolution, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, July 9, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 1443, the ''Tinnitus Research

and Treatment Act of 2013''; H.R. 1612, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convey a parcel of land in Tuskegee, Alabama, to Tuskegee University, and for other purposes; H.R. 1702, the ''Veterans Transportation Service Act''; H.R. 2065, the ''Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans Act''; and draft legislation on the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

July 10, Full Committee, and Full Committee on Armed Services, joint hearing entitled ''DOD and VA Collaboration to assist Service Members Returning to Civilian Life'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, July 10, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on the Obama Administration's decision to delay the employer mandate and the employer information reporting requirements under the Affordable Care Act, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, July 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 10 a.m., HVC–304. This is a closed hearing.

July 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 9 a.m., HVC–304. This is a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: July 10, to hold hearings to examine building job opportunities for veterans, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through June 30, 2013

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	79	84	..
Time in session	561 hrs., 29′	380 hrs., 1′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	S5,512	H134,178	..
Extensions of Remarks	..	E1,011	..
Public bills enacted into law	4	11	15
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	181	175	356
Senate bills	30	4	..
House bills	15	95	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	11	9	..
House concurrent resolutions	7	9	..
Simple resolutions	118	58	..
Measures reported, total	99	131	230
Senate bills	64	..	..
House bills	5	98	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	..	3	..
Simple resolutions	29	30	..
Special reports	12	3	..
Conference reports	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	87	28	..
Measures introduced, total	1,498	2,988	4,486
Bills	1,268	2,608	..
Joint resolutions	19	51	..
Concurrent resolutions	19	42	..
Simple resolutions	192	287	..
Quorum calls	1	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	168	148	..
Recorded votes	..	155	..
Bills vetoed	..	..	..
Vetoes overrfidden	..	..	..

* These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 69 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 134 reports have been filed in the House.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through June 30, 2013

Civilian nominations, totaling 254, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	61
Unconfirmed	190
Withdrawn	3

Other Civilian nominations, totaling 887, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	9
Unconfirmed	878

Air Force nominations, totaling 3,836, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	816
Unconfirmed	3,020

Army nominations, totaling 3,760, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	3,698
Unconfirmed	62

Navy nominations, totaling 1,638, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	1,572
Unconfirmed	65
Withdrawn	1

Marine Corps nominations, totaling 761, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	760
Unconfirmed	1

Summary

Total nominations carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominations received this Session	11,136
Total confirmed	6,916
Total unconfirmed	4,216
Total withdrawn	4
Total returned to the White House	0

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, July 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: The Majority Leader will be recognized. At 11 a.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Jennifer A. Dorsey, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 12 p.m.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, July 9

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Begin consideration of H.R. 2609—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Brown, Corrine, Fla., E1016
Capito, Shelley Moore, W.Va., E1013
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E1019
Engel, Eliot L., N.Y., E1015, E1016, E1018
Farr, Sam, Calif., E1023
Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E1013
Kilmer, Derek, Wash., E1015, E1021
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E1017, E1020
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, D.C., E1014, E1016, E1019, E1021, E1023
Perlmutter, Ed, Colo., E1023
Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E1014, E1018
Ruppersberger, C.A. Dutch, Md., E1019
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E1022
Speier, Jackie, Calif., E1023
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E1014, E1014, E1015, E1016, E1018, E1019, E1020, E1020, E1021, E1022
Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E1013
Webster, Daniel, Fla., E1022
Wilson, Frederica S., Fla., E1017

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