EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF DR. JEFF THOMPSON FOR BEING NAMED A WHITE HOUSE HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHAMPION OF CHANGE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jeff Thompson, CEO of Gundersen Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin, for being honored as a White House Health and Climate Champion of Change. Dr. Thompson is not only a nationally recognized health care leader but he is also a visionary leader in promoting environmental responsibility for health care organizations. This Climate and Health Champion of Change award was given to a select group of national leaders who promote public health through such environmental stewardship.

Dr. Thompson's record of extraordinary leadership starts with Gundersen's core mission of providing high-quality care to patients in western Wisconsin, southeast Minnesota, and northern Iowa. Dr. Thompson has been a leader in developing the type of coordinated, integrated and patient centered care that is the model for the direction we need to move our nation's health care system. His successful leadership can be seen through the long list of accolades Gundersen has received for their quality care and innovation, including being named one of Becker's Hospital Review 100 Integrated Health Systems to Know, winning Healthgrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinic Excellence for the 6th consecutive year in 2013, ranking as the fourth safest hospital in the country as measured by Consumer Reports, and being named one of the 100 Most Wired hospitals according to a report from Hospitals and Health Networks magazine. Dr. Thompson was also personally named one of the Top 100 Physician Leaders of Hospital and Health Systems by Becker's Hospital Review last year. The additional honor of being named a White House Health and Climate Champion of Change is further confirmation of the extraordinary role Gundersen Health, under Dr. Thompson's leadership, has taken to improve patient health and promote an environmentally sustainable health care system.

Gundersen Health is setting the standard for how to make health systems environmentally responsible. They are on track to be 100 percent energy independent in 2014. Gundersen partners with businesses and communities to encourage environmentally and economically sustainable business practices and economic growth. They are developing their own energy infrastructure, using equipment owned by the health system, instead of purchasing renewable power at premium rates. This initiative demonstrates their commitment to lowering the cost of healthcare for the people and businesses that pay for it through socially responsible and environmentally friendly means.

Gundersen has invested in a wide variety of renewable energy programs, including a dairy digester, wind farms, biomass boiler, solar panels, and geothermal systems to provide a diverse portfolio of renewable resources to offer clean, green energy. Those initiatives are all directed toward the goal of making Gundersen the first fully energy independent hospital in the country by next year.

Dr. Thompson has provided national leadership in changing the way health care is delivered in America toward a more quality, value based focus. Combined with his leadership in setting the national standard for promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainability programs within health care systems, Dr. Thompson is very deserving of the White House Health and Climate Champion of Change award. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Dr. Thompson on receiving this prestigious honor.

CELEBRATING THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe, LA. as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. The men and women of this center have dedicated countless hours to help those during times of need, and I am evermore grateful for all that they have done to serve the 5th Congressional District.

On opening day, July 22, 1913, the St. Francis Sanitarium and School of Nursing had four patients and by late September, 193 had been admitted. Named after St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of the Franciscan Sisters, its mission would be to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to God's people, especially those most in need. A century later, this mission has remained constant.

From its modest beginning as a three-story red brick building with 75 patient beds, St. Francis Medical Center has grown to become Northeast Louisiana's largest healthcare provider with 550 licensed beds.

In addition to the remarkable progression of care St. Francis Medical Center provides to its patients and loved ones, it has turned into one of the largest employers in Ouachita Parish boasting over 2,200 employees and an annual payroll of $100 million.

As St. Francis Medical Center embarks on its second century of service to our community, I am confident the goal of providing excellent healthcare with love, compassion, humility and respect for all entrusted to them will continue.

It is with deep appreciation for the organization's many contributions to the 5th Congressional District that I rise today to recognize St. Francis Medical Center's 100th year. To say that this group is a source of strength within Northeast Louisiana is an understatement. Bringing comfort and hope to patients and their families is a priceless gift. They have made a real difference in the lives of many, and I commend each individual, past and present, for their admirable service and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in applauding such an outstanding benchmark.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN PAUL MOSES

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Paul B. Moses of the Belvidere Fire Department, and to recognize his years of dedicated public service.

Captain Moses began his career on January 10th, 1979 and was one of the first firefighters to complete Emergency Medical Technician training within the department. Since then he has worked in many different capacities during his tenure. In August of 1983, he became lieutenant and then six years later, in 1989, was appointed Chief of the department, a position he held for the next six years. Over his remaining years he completed his career as both Lieutenant and finally as Captain.

He was a member of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, the Winnebago Fire Chiefs Association, and served on Boone County's 911 Board for over 15 years, serving many years as Chairman. While Chief he was instrumental in upgrading department equipment with the purchase of a new Fire Engine and Ladder Truck. He improved training within the department and was instrumental in the computerization of records.

Most importantly, Captain Moses led from the front, never asking someone to do something he couldn't or wouldn't do himself. He is what you envision a firefighter to be, courageous, dedicated, strong, and passionate about his service.

On July 11th, Captain Moses retired from the Belvidere Fire Department after more than 34 years of sacrifice and service. Captain Moses has played an invaluable role in the Belvidere Fire Department for decades and he will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to Captain Moses for devoting his life's work to protecting and serving his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER ROBERT HORNSBY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero of the 31st District of Texas, Police Officer Robert "Bobby" Hornsby. Officer Hornsby, of the Killeen Police Department SWAT team, was fatally shot in the line of duty on Saturday, July 14, 2013. After four years of service on the force, he was accepted by the SWAT team in November of 2012. Officer Hornsby was a valued asset and one of Killeen's finest. He is described by his fellow officers as dedicated, patient man who was a strength to the department. Officer Hornsby is survived by his loving wife, daughter and son.

I am deeply saddened by this tragic loss; it is unfair whenever a young life is taken from us too soon. Officer Hornsby's bravery and commitment to the badge will be honored and remembered. My prayers are with Officer Hornsby's family, his brothers and sisters in blue at the Killeen Police Department, and the Killeen community as they mourn this remarkable life.

I would also like to recognize Officer Juan Obregon Jr. of the Killeen, Texas Police Department SWAT team. Officer Obregon was injured in the line of duty next to his fallen brother, Officer Hornsby. My prayers of healing are with him and his family as he begins his road to recovery.

I thank Officer Hornsby and Officer Obregon for their service, as well as all law enforcement. We are safe because heroic men, like Officer Hornsby and Officer Obregon, put themselves in harm's way to defend others. Their bravery and commitment to the badge will be honored.

HONORING MS. JAN N. ROCHE ON HER SELECTION TO THE NAFCU BOARD

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jan Roche on her recent election to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

Ms. Roche is the President and CEO of State Department Federal Credit Union headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. She has served in this role for over 10 years and has used her extensive accounting and credit union management experience to ensure that the State Department Federal Credit Union remains wholly committed to serving its 68,000 members at home and abroad. Ms. Roche is a Certified Public Accountant and graduated cum laude from the University of Richmond.

In addition to her service on NAFCU's Board of Directors, Ms. Roche also serves on the Administrative Board of the Filene Research Institute and is the vice chair of the Richmond Fed's Community Development Institutions Advisory Board. Ms. Roche is active in the betterment of our local community through her work supporting Credit Union Miracle Day, which helps plan the Cherry Blossom 10-miler each year benefitting the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

Undoubtedly, Ms. Roche will bring a tremendous amount of expertise to the NAFCU Board in navigating laws and regulations impacting the credit union community.

I wish Ms. Roche the best of luck in her new role on the NAFCU Board and look forward to working with her in this capacity. I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating her on this achievement.

UNITED HEALTH FOUNDATION DIVERSE SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, investing in the next generation of health care professionals to equip them with the tools and skills to improve the quality and delivery of health care is essential to the successful modernization of our nation's health care system. For the past six years, United Health Foundation has helped more than 1,000 multicultural students from across the country reach their higher education dreams while inspiring them to pursue careers in health care through their Diverse Scholars Initiative. This year's scholars represent an impressive group of individuals who are dedicated to creating a more culturally relevant and effective health care system, particularly in underserved communities. I would like to congratulate these individuals for their academic achievements and their commitment to enter the health care workforce.

Mycolette Anderson, Lukachukai, Arizona, 1st Congressional District of Arizona.

Kaitlyn Benally, Tuba City, Arizona, 1st Congressional District of Arizona.

Wilma Hunter, Chinle, Arizona, 1st Congressional District of Arizona.

Regis Maloney, Tonalea, Arizona, 1st Congressional District of Arizona.

Jeffery Sleppy, Chinle, Arizona, 1st Congressional District of Arizona.

Cecilia Espinoza, El Mirage, Arizona, 8th Congressional District of Arizona.

Lorenza Villegas-Murphy, Litchfield Park, Arizona, 8th Congressional District of Arizona.

Nancy Rivera, Davis, California, 3rd Congressional District of California.

Tria Vue, Sacramento, California, 6th Congressional District of California.

Brian Daniel, San Pablo, California, 11th Congressional District of California.

Ricky Vides, Moraga, California, 11th Congressional District of California.

Hannah Yemane, Danville, California, 11th Congressional District of California.

Lois Chen, Oakland, California, 13th Congressional District of California.

Jose Mata, Los Angeles, California, 28th Congressional District of California.

Angelyn Reyes, Los Angeles, California, 33rd Congressional District of California.

Elisa Parmentier, Sun City, California, 42nd Congressional District of California.

Sophia Jimenez, Imperial Beach, California, 51st Congressional District of California.

Blanca Pacheco, San Diego, California, 53rd Congressional District of California.

Kelly Sanchez, New Haven, Connecticut, 3rd Congressional District of Connecticut.

Dianelis Martin, Lehigh Acres, Florida, 19th Congressional District of Florida.

Emmanuel Adejo, Miami Gardens, Florida, 24th Congressional District of Florida.

Alison Morales, Key West, Florida, 26th Congressional District of Florida.

Karla Arevalo-Alas, Morrow, Georgia, 5th Congressional District of Georgia.

Sharmori Lewis, Hampton, Georgia, 13th Congressional District of Georgia.

Carolina González, Pocatello, Idaho, 2nd Congressional District of Idaho.

Jessica Smith, Chicago, Illinois, 7th Congressional District of Illinois.

Raymond Morales, Urbana, Illinois, 13th Congressional District of Illinois.

Christian Figueroa, Garden City, Kansas, 1st Congressional District of Kansas.

Marcus Rushing, Overland Park, Kansas, 3rd Congressional District of Kansas.

Stephen Igwe, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana.

Julius Unamba, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 4th Congressional District of Maryland.

Alba Ortega, Lynn, Massachusetts, 6th Congressional District of Massachusetts.

Erez Gueta, Bath, Michigan, 4th Congressional District of Michigan.

Linda Kerandi, Plymouth, Minnesota, 3rd Congressional District of Minnesota.

Victoria Okuneye, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, 3rd Congressional District of Minnesota.

David Koffa, Hanover, New Hampshire, 2nd Congressional District of New Hampshire.

Quidest Sheriff, Blackwood, New Jersey, 1st Congressional District of New Jersey.

Nailah Cooper, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1st Congressional District of New Mexico.

Tylene Billie, Crownpoint, New Mexico, 3rd Congressional District of New Mexico.

Lesley Eldridge, Gallup, New Mexico, 3rd Congressional District of New Mexico.

Ronald Sanchez, Queens, New York, 5th Congressional District of New York.

Xiang Mei Cao, Brooklyn, New York, 7th Congressional District of New York.

Emma Guzman, Brooklyn, New York, 11th Congressional District of New York.

Elliott Brea, New York, New York, 12th Congressional District of New York.

Rosario Jaime-Lara, New York, New York, 13th Congressional District of New York.

Gordon Wong, Geneseo, New York, 27th Congressional District of New York.

Joshua Pyant, Charlotte, North Carolina, 9th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Jessica Mack, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 12th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Rashiadah Weaver, East Cleveland, Ohio, 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

Shelah McMillan, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

Vivienne Meljen, Scranton, Pennsylvania, 17th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

Emily Gao, Galveston, Texas, 14th Congressional District of Texas.

Brian Ibarra, El Paso, Texas, 16th Congressional District of Texas.

Paula Ogbevoen, Houston, Texas, 18th Congressional District of Texas.

Rio Reyna Pilar, San Antonio, Texas, 20th Congressional District of Texas.

Cassandra Ragin, San Antonio, Texas, 20th Congressional District of Texas.

Brenda Tristan, Laredo, Texas, 28th Congressional District of Texas.

Leslie Cepeda-Echeverria, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2nd Congressional District of Utah.

Michelle Lewis, Richmond, Virginia, 3rd Congressional District of Virginia.

Beverly Sanchez, Alexandria, Virginia, 8th Congressional District of Virginia.

Tiffany Tran, Vancouver, Washington, 3rd Congressional District of Washington.

Harpreet Singh-Gill, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 4th Congressional District of Wisconsin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed the following vote: 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. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CLINTON M. PATTEA

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and passing of Dr. Clinton M. Pattea, a lifelong advocate for Native American sovereignty, president of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, and former chairman of the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs.

As a state legislator, I worked with Dr. Pattea on issues important to our local communities, where his passion for education and providing educational resources to the underserved was renowned. Dr. Pattea tirelessly sought to fund scholarships for native peoples across the state and in my district at Arizona State University, where I am an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Work.

Elected to the Yavapai Tribal Council in 1960, Dr. Pattea thereafter led a decade-long campaign to stop construction of the Orme Dam, which would have flooded 17,000 acres of tribal lands. The victory is celebrated annually, as is Sovereignty Day, commemorating a peaceful standoff led by Dr. Pattea against federal agents seeking to seize Yavapai property. The non-violent protest led to the negotiation with Governor Fife Symington of a pact considered a national victory for Native self-determination.

Dr. Pattea will be missed by all who knew him, and will be remembered by his family, his Nation, the state of Arizona, and Native people everywhere. I ask that my colleagues join me in posthumously recognizing Dr. Pattea for his dedicated service to his community, as well as in grieving with his family and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation at the passing of their leader.

IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR GLATFELTER, JR.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Arthur Glatfelter, Jr. Mr. Glatfelter was a pillar of his community, a kind and generous man, and a leader who sought to make the world a better place. In addition to his work with philanthropies, Mr. Glatfelter was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Mr. Glatfelter fought for his country during World War II, serving in the United States Marine Corps in the Pacific. After the war he continued his life of service. Mr. Glatfelter was a leader in many philanthropic groups, and served on the boards of multiple organizations in his community. He was an original member of the board of directors as well as the founding director of the Congressional Fire Services Institute. Mr. Glatfelter remained an active member of the CFSI until stepping down in 2008. Other groups he worked with included the Cultural Alliance of York County, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the York Habitat for Humanity, and the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County. Mr. Glatfelter was also the founder of the Glatfelter Insurance Group.

Mr. Speaker, Art Glatfelter was a shining example of community service and family values. He was not only a good friend of mine, but an outstanding friend of the emergency services and first responder communities all across America. He will be missed.

LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PROVIDE FOR OFFSETTING CERTAIN PAST-DUE LOCAL TAX DEBTS AGAINST INCOME TAX OVERPAYMENTS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am proposing legislation to establish a program that would mirror the existing law for states. The legislation would allow certain types of delinquent local tax debt to be collected through the reduction of federal tax refunds. Providing local governments access to these needed and due funds is important both in principle and for budgetary purposes. In this challenging and uncertain economic environment, it is especially important to assist cities and counties to collect the taxes they are owed. The alternatives would be a reduction in vital services and jobs at a time when the government safety net for poor families and the unemployed has weakened significantly and increases in poverty in these hard economic times. Failure to collect what is due will impose significantly higher demands on local governments for police, housing and shelter, food, and other vital services. This bill offers a unique opportunity not just to provide hundreds of millions of dollars of desperately needed assistance at no cost to federal taxpayers but also to protect honest taxpayers from an increase in local property taxes. Under this legislation, the only cost is to the delinquent taxpayer, who would finally be made to pay his or her outstanding tax obligation.

This proposed program would have no additional cost to the federal government. Local governments would pay the federal government the fee of $25 for each offset refund. It would alleviate the administrative burden to Department of the Treasury by requiring the state taxing authority to act as the clearinghouse. Therefore, the client base for the Department of the Treasury would not increase.

This concept of an offset originated as a way to assist states with securing child support arrearages. It was expanded to allow states to submit other delinquent claims against an individual's federal tax return. This program has been very successful for the states. This bill would expand its successful idea and concept to local governments in all states. Doing so could potentially result in several billion dollars annually for local governments by effecting the collection of delinquent taxes. Under this legislation, the following order of priority for payment of an offset would be: (1) past-due federal income tax, (2) past-due state child support, (3) past-due federal government agency debt, (4) past-due state income tax, and (5) local government tax. The state taxing authority for each state would act as the clearinghouse for the local government tax debts, so this will not be an additional burden to Financial Management Services (which is a division of the United States Department of the Treasury and administers the Federal Offset Program). Doing so could potentially result in several billion dollars annually for local governments by improving the collection of delinquent taxes.

The bill would instruct the Secretary of the Treasury, upon receiving notice from any eligible state on behalf of a local government, that a named person owes such local government a past-due, legally enforceable tax obligation and provide, consequently, for the reduction of the federal tax refunds payable to such person by the amount of such debt. That amount would be remitted to the state for payment to the affected local government, provide for notification to the state of the taxpayer's name, taxpayer identification number, address, and the amount collected; and notification of the person due the refund that it has been reduced by an amount necessary to satisfy a past-due, legally enforceable tax obligation.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to provide hundreds of millions of dollars of desperately needed assistance at no cost to federal taxpayers. For Virginia localities, it is estimated that this bill will bring in between 65–70 million dollars in revenue during the first year in the program. From its participation in the Federal Offset Program, for FY 2008 the Commonwealth of Virginia received over $17 million dollars in offsets of federal income tax refunds and an additional $5 million in offsets of the tax stimulus checks. This legislation earned the official support of the National Association of Counties, the Government Finance Officers Association, the National League of Cities, the Treasurers' Association of Virginia, the United States Conference of Mayors, the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States and Canada, and the Conference of State Court Administrators.

This is a good-government bill. If the legislation is passed, it would allow federal, state and local government to work together. Good citizens, who pay their taxes, will appreciate that the federal government and the state government are assisting localities to help local government collect from the delinquents. Each citizen should share in paying his fair share of taxes.

H.R. 2667, THE AUTHORITY FOR MANDATE DELAY ACT AND H.R. 2668, THE FAIRNESS FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT JULY 17, 2013

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to both H.R. 2667, the Authority for Mandate Delay Act, and H.R. 2668, the Fairness for American Families Act. Here we are once again taking another cheap shot at the Affordable Care Act (ACA), rather than working to continue providing its benefits to the American people. Both pieces of legislation are political stunts which will not help Americans get access to quality, affordable health care.

There is no need for passage of H.R. 2667 since the President has already acted to delay by one year the employer responsibility requirements under ACA. Given the fact that this type of change has long been sought by my friends on the other side of the aisle and their allies, you would think they would be praising the President for taking this action. Instead, they have done nothing but used this as another opportunity to score cheap political points, which is very telling.

Although I wish the employer responsibility provision would be implemented on time, the fact of the matter is that this delay will have very little practical impact. Over ninety six percent of large employers already offer health coverage to their employees. It is important that we take our time in getting these new reporting requirements right, which is exactly what the President is doing. Since the President has already acted in this manner, H.R. 2667 is duplicative and unnecessary.

H.R. 2668 also should be rejected by this body. The individual mandate is the cornerstone of the ACA, and the Supreme Court has affirmed its constitutionality. Simply put, delaying the implementation of the individual mandate is just a back door attempt to undermine the entire law. The Affordable Care Act has already brought many benefits to the American people. Thanks to the law, 206,000 people in my district have access to preventative services without a co-pay, and 8,500 young adults have health insurance through their parents' plan. Adopting this bill today would jeopardize this progress we have made in recent years.

Today we received news that health insurance premiums will fall by an average of 50 percent in New York once their exchanges are up and running in 2014. The individual mandate is a key reason for this. For years, New York had a prohibition on discriminating against individuals with a pre-existing condition. However, the state did not require all individuals to purchase insurance, which caused rates to skyrocket. The individual mandate, combined with the new health insurance marketplaces, are in large part responsible for this precipitous decline in insurance rates in New York. We should ensure that these results are replicated in my home state of Michigan and across the rest of the country. Repealing the individual mandate will increase Americans' health care costs, not decrease them.

I hope we can come together and work in a bipartisan manner to improve our health care system and provide real benefits to the American people. Until that day comes, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against these two pieces of legislation, as they are nothing more than political stunts which do nothing to address the problems we face as a nation.

TRIBUTE TO BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Blue Star Mothers of America, a national organization of military mothers devoted to supporting our nation's armed forces. Representatives LAMALFA, SWALWELL, and ROBY have joined me in introducing a resolution naming the month of August as "Blue Star Mothers of America Month."

I am proud to say that the East Valley Blue Star Mothers, a local chapter of the organization, meets in my district. They have dedicated themselves to supporting soldiers overseas, wounded warriors, families of fallen soldiers, as well as all veterans, homeless or thriving. They organize visits to VA hospitals, participate in Veteran's and Memorial Day events, and send care packages to homesick troops protecting our freedom abroad.

Founded in 1941, Blue Star Mothers of America boast 11,000 members brought together by their sons' and daughters' service. Chapters flourish in 42 states, and in all corners of my own state, Arizona. Blue Star Mothers are unsung heroes of the ongoing fight to preserve our country's safety and liberty.

The Blue Star Mothers are a truly patriotic organization and deserve our body's commendation. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Blue Star Mothers of America for their service to their communities, to our country, and to all of us individually.

THE ADMINISTRATION MUST NOT SIDELINE HORRIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NORTH KOREA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today the House Republican Conference and House Foreign Affairs Committee welcomed roughly 400 Korean American community leaders from across the country to Capitol Hill for the first-ever Korean American Meetup. Participants had the opportunity to meet with key congressional leaders to discuss legislative and policy priorities for the community.

Given my own interactions over the years with the vibrant Korean American community in my district, I think it is safe to say that the abysmal human rights situation in North Korea will feature prominently among these policy priorities.

Sadly, given the amount of time and focus that the Obama Administration has dedicated to shining a bright light on this dark corner of the globe you would never know that up to 200,000 people languish in a sophisticated and horrific prison camp system in North Korea reminiscent of the most brutal regimes throughout history.

On May 21 Christianity Today featured an interview with former Washington Post reporter Blaine Harden, author of "Escape from Camp 14." Harden's book features the story of Shin Dong-hyuk, the only known prisoner who was actually born in one of regime's notorious camps and escaped alive.

Mr. Shin's personal story is remarkable. He grew up knowing nothing of life outside the camp. He turned in his mother and brother—which led to their eventual execution—based on the promise of a meal of rice. In fact it was the pursuit of food that led him to attempt a harrowing escape.

Harden spoke of the camps as analogous to "Stalin's Gulag." He continued, "The camps were set up under Kim Il-sung, an acolyte of Stalin, as a mirror of the Soviet Gulag. What is different in the North Korean case is that they seem to be crueler and have lasted twice as long."

Indeed, the longevity of these camps is striking as is the fact that some South Korean POWs are still trapped in North Korea 60 years after the armistice. The Washington Post ran a story last weekend, which I submit for the RECORD, on this rarely discussed human rights tragedy.

We have known for some time about the true nature of the cruel and inhuman system of labor camps maintained by the regime. In fact satellite images confirmed their existence more than a decade ago. And yet somehow, almost inexplicably, these horrific camps have failed to inspire collective outrage on the part of the West, and have been sidelined to the point of irrelevance in successive U.S. administrations' dealings with North Korea, including the Obama Administration.

The U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea published a report 10 years ago called The Hidden Gulag: Exposing North Korea's Prison Camps. It contained a full description of the camps, the worst of which are called kwan-li-so, which is translated as "political penal-labor colonies," and where, according to the Committee's report, scores of thousands of political prisoners—along with up to three generations of their family members—are banished without any judicial process and imprisoned, typically for lifetime sentences of slave labor.

The report also contained prisoners' testimonies and satellite photographs of the camps, whose very existence continues to be denied by the North Korean government, which is why the committee described the gulags as "hidden."

Defector testimony, like that of Mr. Shin, satellite images and in-depth reporting have left no doubt about the camps' existence and

the horrors of life there. What remains to be seen is how the U.S. will respond.

What has this administration done about this abomination?

What has this administration done about a regime that sustains and perpetuates this evil?

In March, after sustained pressure from human rights organizations, the United Nations Human Rights Council agreed to set up a commission of inquiry to examine systematic ''crimes against humanity'' in North Korea. The commission is slated to begin its work this month and could represent a sliver of hope for the long suffering people of North Korea.

However, it is striking that just one month after the decision to pursue a commission of inquiry, President Obama met with UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon, and despite the fact that North Korea featured prominently on the agenda, their lengthy public remarks after meeting did not include a single mention of the human rights atrocities in North Korea instead focusing exclusively on the nuclear issue and diffusing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Because North Korea possesses nuclear weapons and regularly threatens to use them as well as share nuclear weapons technology with other rogue states like Iran, the international community, the U.S. included, has tended to ignore or seriously downplay the horrendous human rights abuses in North Korea in the interest of trying to negotiate an end to its nuclear program.

But next to nothing has been achieved by these negotiations over the years. In fact, recent months have been marked by a series of provocations by the North Korean government. Meanwhile, America—the world's leading democracy which has historically championed fundamental freedoms—has been shamefully silent about grave human rights abuses and atrocities.

On a host of levels this approach is deeply flawed and I do not believe it will yield the desired results on either the nuclear front or the human rights front. The possession of nuclear weapons is simply too important to the North Korean regime, if only to deflect attention from its cruel and oppressive system of camps and the famine that it has brought upon its people at an estimated cost of anywhere from one to three million lives. Any future talks with the North Koreans, be it the six-party process, which stalled in 2008, or some other forum, must include human rights on the agenda. For years, nuclear talks alone have produced next to nothing.

A new North Korea framework is long overdue. Ignoring or downplaying the human rights situation for one more day is unconscionable.

Ronald Reagan negotiated with the Soviet Union to reduce nuclear weapons throughout the 1980s, but that did not stop him from speaking about human rights, calling upon the Soviets to tear down the Berlin Wall, and predicting that communism would end up on the ash heap of history. His outspoken support for human rights had an effect, accelerating the demise of communism and, in the process, making it easier to resolve nuclear and security issues, since the main cause of Soviet aggressiveness was the communist system it was intended to defend and extend. Further it reminded those living behind the Iron Curtain that America was a friend, not an enemy, despite Soviet propaganda to the contrary.

We should be doing the same thing with North Korea today.

My friend Carl Gershman, president of the National Endowment for Democracy, has pointed out that the North Korean totalitarian system is undergoing an inexorable process of erosion, marked by a sharply reduced ability to impose a complete information blockade on its population.

He notes that what makes the North Korean system especially vulnerable is the existence just across the southern border of a free, successful and affluent South Korean society. For decades now the regime in Pyongyang has told its population that the people of South Korea live in hell while they live in a communist paradise. He's concluded that as the population learns that the truth is exactly the opposite, they will become increasingly restive, resentful, and rebellious.

With these fissures in the information blockade comes an opportunity.

In the words of the tireless North Korean human rights activist and champion Suzanne Scholte, ''There is so much that we can do to help the North Korean people. First, because they can hear us: our government must make our human rights concerns the most important policy regarding North Korea, so that North Koreans know the truth; that we are not the yankee imperialist wolves trying to destroy them, but the United States and other countries have spent billions of dollars trying to feed them and save them from starvation.''

Additionally, the Obama Administration ought to be pursuing a policy which places a high priority on working with other countries in the region to champion the rights of North Korean refugees. China is among the biggest obstacles. Its current policy of repatriating North Korean refugees violates China's international treaty obligations. A grim fate awaits those who are returned to North Korea.

According to Human Rights Watch, ''Beijing categorically labels North Koreans in China 'illegal' economic migrants and routinely repatriates them, despite its obligation to offer protection to refugees under customary international law and the Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 protocol, to which China is a state party. Former North Korean security officials who have defected told Human Rights Watch that North Koreans handed back by China face interrogation, torture, and referral to political prisoner or forced labor camps. In a high profile case, China forced back at least 30 North Koreans in February and March 2012, defying a formal request from South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak to desist from doing so, and despite protests in front of the Chinese Embassy in Seoul.''

When was the last time this issue was raised with the Chinese government?

Did it even garner a cursory mention during the recent U.S.-China Economic and Strategic Dialogue?

Is there any sense that China will have to pay a price for disregarding its international obligations?

The human rights travesty in North Korea is perhaps most acute when we consider the vulnerable children of that nation. There are those living under the regime and those referred to as ''stateless orphans,'' having been born out of relationships between North Korean women defectors, many of whom are trafficked once they escape to China, and Chinese men. According to a September 2012 Radio Free Asia story, ''Aid workers estimate that there are some 2,000 'defector orphans' in China . . .''

Last September, the House passed the North Korean Child Welfare Act of 2012, which I cosponsored. It was signed into law by the president in January. The legislation directs the State Department to ''advocate for the best interests'' of North Korean children and to when possible, facilitate immediate protection for those living outside North Korea through family reunification or, ''if appropriate and eligible in individual cases, domestic or international adoption.''

This legislation enjoyed broad bipartisan support in the Congress. What steps has the State Department taken to fulfill its obligation in this regard?

Ultimately, this administration needs to look forward. It needs vision, creativity and boldness.

The North Korean regime will not be there forever to oppress its people.

Writing in the Wall Street Journal on the eve of South Korean President Park Geun-hye's first summit with US President Barack Obama, Nicholas Eberstadt suggested that, ''A robust international human-rights campaign in support of the world's most hideously abused subject population would restrict the regime's international freedom of maneuver, just as the anti-apartheid campaign did against South Africa in the 1980s. A serious public-communications effort—propaganda, if you like—aimed at encouraging any glimmers of decline in the cohesion of Pyongyang's elite could also constrain the leadership.''

Such imagination has been utterly lacking in the Obama administration.

Fortunately, we take some solace in knowing that just like the regimes in Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union that preceded it, this evil empire, too, will fall.

In the meantime we must champion the rights of the people who wither under its oppression.

I'll close with the words of columnist and author, Anne Applebaum in the hope that they inspire the administration's approach to North Korea moving forward. She writes in the introduction of The Hidden Gulag, ''This is not to say that words can make a dictatorship collapse overnight. But words can certainly make a dictatorship collapse over time, as experience during the last two decades has shown. Totalitarian regimes are built on lies and can be damaged, even destroyed, when those lies are exposed.''

[From the Washington Post, July 13, 2013]

SOME SOUTH KOREAN POWS STILL TRAPPED IN THE NORTH, 60 YEARS AFTER ARMISTICE

(By Chico Harlan)

SEOUL.—Sixty years ago this month, a 21–year-old South Korean soldier named Lee Jae-won wrote a letter to his mother. He was somewhere in the middle of the peninsula, he wrote, and bullets were coming down like ''raindrops.'' He said he was scared.

The next letter to arrive came days later from the South Korean military. It described a firefight in Paju, near the modern-day border between the North and South, and said Lee had been killed there in battle. His body had not been recovered.

''We never doubted his death,'' said Lee's younger brother, Lee Jae-seong. ''It was the chaos of war, and you couldn't expect to recover a body.''

But Lee was not dead. Rather, he had been captured by Chinese Communists and handed to the North Koreans, who detained him as a lifetime prisoner, part of a secretive program that continues 60 years after the end of the

Korean War, according to South Korean officials and escapees from the North.

Tens of thousands of South Korean POWs were held captive in the North under the program, penned in remote areas and kept incommunicado in one of the most scarring legacies of the three-year war. South Korean officials say that about 500 of those POWs—now in their 80s and 90s—might still be alive, still waiting to return home. In part because they're so old, South Korea says it's a government priority, though a difficult one, to get them out.

Almost nothing was known about the lives of these prisoners until 20 years ago, when a few elderly soldiers escaped, sneaking from the northern tip of North Korea into China and making their way back to South Korea. A few dozen more followed, and they described years of forced labor in coal mines. They said they were encouraged to marry North Korean wives, a means of assimilation. But under the North's family-run police state, they were designated as members of the ''hostile'' social class—denied education and Workers' Party membership, and sent to gulags for even minor slip-ups, such as talking favorably about the quality of South Korean rice.

When the war ended with a July 27, 1953, armistice agreement that divided the peninsula along the 38th parallel, about 80,000 South Korean soldiers were unaccounted for. A few, like Lee Jae-won, were presumed dead. Most were thought to be POWs. The two Koreas, as part of the armistice, agreed to swap those prisoners, but the North returned only 8,300.

The others became part of an intractable Cold War standoff, and the few POWs who have escaped say both Koreas are to blame. The South pressed the North about the POWs for several years after the war, but the issue faded from public consciousness—until the first successful escape of a POW, in 1994. The North, meanwhile, has said that anybody living in the country is there voluntarily.

South Korea took up the POW issue with greater force six years ago, as it became clear that a lengthy charm offensive—known as the Sunshine Policy—wasn't leading the North to change its economic or humanitarian policies. During a 2000 summit with Kim Jong Il, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung didn't even bring up the issue. But by 2007, the South was talking about the POWs in defense talks. And by 2008, under conservative President Lee Myung-bak, South Korea offered aid to win the prisoners' release.

But with relations between the two governments badly frayed, the countries haven't discussed the issue since military-to-military talks in February 2011.

''Time is chasing us,'' said Lee Sang-chul, a one-star general at the South Korean Ministry of National Defense who is in charge of the POW issue.

But without North Korea's cooperation, Lee said, the South has little recourse to retrieve its soldiers. Lee said that, realistically, the POWs have only one way to return home: They have to escape.

HOPES THAT WITHERED

So far, about 80 have.

They gather for annual dinners in the South, and some meet for regular card games. They've been given overdue medals and overdue apologies. They've testified about the POWs they know who are still in the North. They've shaken hands with the president. They've received major compensation payments—about $10,000 per month, over five years.

The returnees have encountered all varieties of surprise, both bitter and grand, as a half-dozen of them described in recent interviews. One escapee, Lee Won-sam, was married just before the war and reunited with his wife 55 years later. But many left families in the North only to find alienation in the South. The POWs, like others in the North, were told for decades that the South was impoverished and decrepit—and their arrival in the South revealed the extent of that deception while also dropping them into incomprehensible prosperity. A handful lost money in frauds, South Korean officials say.

''I thought South Korea had lots of beggars under the bridge and everybody lived in shacks,'' said Lee Gyu-il, 80, who escaped in 2008.

Many escapees say that after the war, they were initially hopeful that the South would secure their return. That hope withered in 1956, when the North assembled the prisoners and told them about Cabinet Order 143, which turned them into North Korean citizens—albeit those of the lowest rank. They were told to be thankful that they had been welcomed into a virtuous society.

''Sadly, there was no real change in our daily lives,'' Yoo Young-bok, who escaped in 2000, wrote in his memoir, which has been translated into English. ''We went right on toiling'' in the mines.

'HE LIVED A FALSE LIFE'

Those who have escaped acknowledge their luck. It wasn't easy for them to flee. Some had to travel for days through the North and then dart across a river forming the border with China—at an age when some had trouble running. Brokers helped guide them but also charged them more than the going rate for defectors, knowing that the escapees would receive large payments after settling in the South.

They know a few who are still stranded in the North. Most of the former prisoners have died from mining accidents, disease, execution, famine and old age.

In Lee Jae-won's case, it was liver cancer. It was 1994, and he was 63. After being captured by the Chinese and handed to the North, he had worked for four decades in a mine at the northernmost point of the peninsula, near the Russian border. He'd married a woman with one eye—a fellow member of the hostile class—and had four children, all of whom were ridiculed by teachers and classmates for their family background.

But only as Lee's health deteriorated in his final months did he tell his children, for the first time, the details of his earlier life. He gave one son, Lee Ju-won, the names of family members in the South, as well as an address: the home in which he was raised.

''So after I buried him, I decided to go there,'' Lee Ju-won said.

It took him 15 years to defect. Two days after Lee Ju-won was given his South Korean citizenship, he traveled to his family's home town, Boeun. His relatives still owned the original property, though the home had been demolished and rebuilt.

During that visit, Lee Ju-won learned that his family had celebrated his father's birthday every year and always set aside a rice ball for him at the New Year's feast. He also discovered his father's letter from Paju, written weeks before the armistice, which a relative had saved.

Lee Ju-won learned that his father, before the war, had been rebellious and talkative—characteristics he stifled in the North, though he passed them on to his son.

''It turns out my dad was a lot like me, though he didn't show it,'' Lee Ju-won said. ''He was admired in North Korea, because he worked hard and didn't do anything wrong. But he lived a false life. He knew one slip of the tongue could harm our whole family. So he never talked about South Korea.''

Yoonjung Seo contributed to this report.

HONORING UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS COLONEL ADRIAN W. BURKE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Marine Corps' Colonel Adrian W. Burke, who retired today after many years of decorated service.

Col. Burke is a native of Deer Park, Texas. He earned his commission in the United States Marine Corps as a Distinguished Naval Graduate from Texas A&M University where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree majoring in Marketing in 1984.

Col. Burke has served as a Logistics Officer and a North Africa, Middle East and Central Asia Regional Specialist. He has commanded at the platoon, company, battalion and regimental levels, leading troops into combat during nine campaigns. Furthermore, he commanded a reinforced logistics company that supported Regimental Combat Team One during Operation Desert Shield and Task Force Papa Bear during the invasion of Kuwait in Operation Desert Storm. He commanded a reinforced logistics battalion during the initial invasion of Iraq in support of the 1st Marine Division. Col. Burke returned with his battalion for a second OIF deployment to support Regimental Combat Team 7 during the expansion of combat operations into the western Al Aribar province of Iraq.

Col. Burke holds three Master's degrees. In 1992, he earned a Master of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in International Business from National University, San Diego, CA, where he was a Leadership Scholarship recipient. In 1999, he earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, Newport, RI; he was recognized with three research and writing commendations. In 2006, he earned a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy with a concentration in Supply Chain Management from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, DC; he was recognized as a Distinguished Academic Graduate and received a research and writing award for logistics excellence.

Col. Burke is a CTL, Certified in Transportation and Logistics by the American Society of Transportation and Logistics. He is a certified graduate of the Georgia Tech Professional Program in Supply Chain and Logistics. He is a graduate of the Marine Corps' School of Advanced Warfighting, a masters-level program that refines decision-making skills in complex environments. Col. Burke is also an Honor Graduate of the Marine Corps' Amphibious Warfare School.

The United States Marine Corps' Colonel Adrian W. Burke assumed command of the San Joaquin region Defense Logistics Agency Defense Distribution Center in July, 2010. His previous assignment was acting as the Director of Logistics for U.S. Forces Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Col. Burke's personal decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy Achievement

Medals, and three Combat Action Ribbons. His unit decorations include: the Presidential Unit Citation, four Joint Meritorious Unit Awards and two Naval Unit Citations.

Col. Burke is married to his wife of almost sixteen years, the former Miss Traci Ann Patterson of San Diego, Calif. They have four children; Jimmy, Susie, Kadie, and Ellie.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel Adrian W. Burke for his honorable service to our great Country.

TRIBUTE TO WOONG KYUNG KIM

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grandmaster Woong Kyung Kim of Aurora, Colorado. A Korean by birth, Mr. Kim, known affectionately as Bobby, became a household name in the world of martial arts as a teacher and a film star in the 1970s. Grandmaster Kim also occupied a peculiar but indispensable role in auxiliary to our armed forces from 1964 to 1979.

Born in Seoul, South Korea in 1942, Grandmaster Kim began his service to the U.S. military while in college as a Taekwondo instructor for the Army's Second Infantry Division, stationed at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Mr. Kim taught the American troops in Korea while finishing his studies and shortly after he graduated in 1969, he came to the United States and began teaching the ways of Taekwondo to cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Mr. Kim ended his tenure with the Air Force Academy in 1979 but continues to share his knowledge of the Korean martial arts with pupils in Colorado to this day.

Shortly after becoming an American citizen, Bobby Kim began an illustrious film career in 1975 and has been credited in 19 movies. Mr. Kim became a presence in the action and martial arts genre in both America and Korea over his career. Grandmaster Kim shared the screen with many great action stars during his career and even starred as the titular character in the 1989 Korean martial arts film ''Ernie and Master Kim''.

Grandmaster Bobby Kim served as a role model and a community leader throughout his life. His unique service to our country is a testament to the American dream and we should all be proud to call him our countryman. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Grandmaster Bobby Kim for a lifetime of achievement with our military and on the big screen.

RECOGNIZING CONNOR SHUPE

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Connor Shupe, a member of Boy Scout Troop 99 in Houston, Missouri, who received his Eagle Scout Award on July 7, 2013. It is the highest award in scouting and the importance of this achievement cannot be overstated.

In order for Connor to become an Eagle Scout, he earned twenty-two different merit badges in a wide variety of subjects as well as serving in various leadership positions in his troop. For his Eagle project, Connor set up a food drive and cleaned and painted the Texas County Food Pantry. He organized multiple volunteers in different shifts and roles to get this major accomplishment completed. Connor recently graduated from Plato High School and plans on attending Brigham Young University Idaho after he serves a mission for his church.

Not every Boy Scout achieves the rank of Eagle Scout. The merit that comes with it deserves to be recognized and celebrated, especially in the hopes of inspiring other young men to become hard-working, American citizens and volunteers in their communities.

IN HONOR OF RAJNATH SINGH, PRESIDENT OF INDIA'S BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Rajnath Singh to Washington, D.C. Mr. Singh is the current president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the main opposition party in India.

At age 24, Rajnath Singh was appointed District President of the Jana Sangh. In 1977, he was elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly from the Mirzapur constituency. In 1984, he became state president of the youth wing.

In 1986, he was appointed national general secretary of the youth wing. In 1988, he rose to the position of National President in the BJP youth and was also elected into the Uttar Pradesh legislative council.

In 1991, Mr. Singh became Education Minister in the first BJP government in the state of Uttar Pradesh. In April 1994, he was elected into the Rajya Sabha and he became involved with the Advisory committee on Industry, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Agriculture, Business Advisory Committee, House Committee and the Committee on Human Resource Development. Mr. Singh was twice elected as National President of BJP and his political accomplishments also include his service as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, his home state.

Mr. Singh oversaw BJP victories in the states of Uttarakhand and Punjab, as well as municipal elections in Delhi, Chandigarh and across Maharashtra. In 2007, assembly elections in Gujarat added a new dimension to the string of successful electoral victories by the BJP.

In 2008, the BJP formed its first ever Government in south India when it rose to power in Karnataka. In 2008, BJP also registered victories in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The most successful phase in the BJP's history was when it managed to win 5 Assembly elections in a row in Uttranchal, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

I am honored to welcome Mr. Singh to our nation's Capital. I thank him for his service to India and for his work in strengthening U.S.-India relations. I also commend the BJP party for naming Chief Minister Narendra Modi as BJP's campaign committee chief.

As former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have and will continue to fully support Chief Minister Modi in his work to lift millions out of poverty by making development a mass movement. Making development a mass movement cuts across the barriers of caste, community, region, religion, race, gender, and status, and guarantees that the benefits of development reach all of us.

This extraordinary idea put forward by Chief Minister Modi has the potential to make the world a better place to live and, consequently, it is time for the U.S. to reverse its course and dialogue now with Chief Minister Modi, who may very well be India's next Prime Minister.

Once more, I welcome the President of the BJP party to Washington, D.C., and I thank Mr. Sanjay Puri, founder and CEO of the Alliance for U.S.-India Business (AUSIB), for bringing us together.

A HIGH POINT FURNITURE COMPANY WINS NATIONAL HONORS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, there is a company in the Sixth District of North Carolina that recently received a distinguished national award for its commitment to American workers and producing fine hand-crafted furniture in the United States. Edward Ferrell/Lewis Mittman (EF/LM) is the recipient of the ''2013 Best: Made in America Award.'' I would like to congratulate all involved in this company's patriotic efforts.

Edward Ferrell/Lewis Mittman is a home furnishings and accessories company located in High Point, North Carolina. Steve Mittman moved EF/LM to North Carolina in 1992 from New York City where it was founded by his father in 1953. Today, EF/LM continues to operate in its modern High Point factory designed to nurture and support the great craftspeople of North Carolina.

EF/LM employs approximately 85 people in a variety of roles. The company is a ''sell to the trade only'' company that manufactures products in all categories of upholstered furniture and case goods. These products are showcased by about 15 managers and sales persons who run individual showrooms as their own businesses. The dedicated individuals at EF/LM work to incorporate surrounding local communities into the development of designs, and often volunteer their time and expertise for local non-profit causes. In addition to providing jobs in the Sixth District, EF/LM makes an effort to utilize local suppliers and other businesses for materials and tasks to further help American consumers and businesses.

Recently, EF/LM handcrafted a ''bipartisan'' sofa and hosted an event in which the sofa was staged in the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer. Respective sides of red and blue fabric were sewn together with white fabric to symbolize an invitation for Republicans and Democrats to sit, talk and listen about the importance of creating and sustaining jobs on American soil.

I would like to offer special congratulations to Owner Steve Mittman, President and CEO Crans Baldwin, Vice President of Operations Gregg Arrington, CFO and Controller Steve Wilt, Vice President of Design Phillip Jeffries, Director of Supply Chain Mark Peterson, and Showroom Managers Annie O'Connell and Joanna Mon.

Edward Ferrell/Lewis Mittman is a loyal, reputable and truly American company that has contributed to High Point's reputation as the Furniture Capital of the World. I am proud to congratulate EF/LM on its ''2013 Best: Made in America Award.''

CONGRATULATING METROPOLITAN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, also known as ''The National Cathedral of African Methodism,'' on its 175th anniversary, and for its contributions to the District of Columbia.

Founded in 1838, Metropolitan AME Church has a long history of notable activities and events. The church was a safe haven to runaway persons who were enslaved, and pioneered the Bethel Literary Society, which enriched the civic, cultural and intellectual lives of African American citizens. Through the years, Metropolitan AME Church has hosted a number of prominent speakers, such as Frederick Douglass, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Mary McLeod Bethune, Eleanor Roosevelt, Joel Elias Spingarn, E. E. Just, Alain Locke, Mordecai Johnson, Hubert H. Humphrey, Jesse Jackson, and Bishop Desmond Tutu, among others. The church was also the site of memorial services for Frederick Douglass, A. Philip Randolph and Rosa Parks. This historic landmark was also the location of both President Bill Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore's inauguration prayer services. In recent years, President Barack Obama and the First Family have worshipped at Metropolitan AME Church.

Members of the congregation are committed to charity. Together, they rose over $56,000 in money and goods for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Metropolitan AME Church also supports social justice initiatives that aim to improve the lives of all citizens of the District of Columbia and surrounding jurisdictions. The church has worked with ex-offenders, who are reentering society and most recently, the church has focused on initiatives to ''Stop the Pipeline to Prison'' and ''Ending Gun Violence.''

Metropolitan AME Church is committed to preserving the architectural and cultural heritage that distinguishes the District of Columbia. The church received the designation as an historical site and has renovated the church ($4.5 Million) to maintain its edifice as a part of AME history. Just recently, the church was awarded a $90,000 grant from the Partners in Preservation to restore the stained-glass windows surrounding the recently restored episcopacy windows on the church's primary facade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 175th anniversary of Metropolitan AME.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of my statement is to inform the House that my absence last week, from July 8 to July 12, and on Tuesday of this week, July 16, was due to a necessary surgical procedure called anterior cervical disc fusion, performed by an outstanding team of professionals. With recovery underway, I'm eager to get back to work alongside the rest of my colleagues.

SECOND MAJOR UNANSWERED QUESTION ABOUT THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I came to the floor to announce that in the remaining legislative days before the August recess, I will be speaking out daily to remind the American people about the key questions that remain to be answered. I will also be sending a series of letters to a number of agencies responsible for the failures leading up to, during and in the aftermath of the Benghazi attacks.

Yesterday, I raised the question of why no survivors, whether State Department, CIA or private security contractor employees—have been asked to testify publicly before Congress. Today, I am raising questions about whether there were intelligence failures in the vetting of the Libyan militias hired to provide security for the consulate, which agency official was responsible for vetting these militias and which insider source provided the terrorists with details about the U.S. compound in advance of the attack.

These are serious questions that deserve clear answers. After nearly a year of committee investigations, I believe the House should be able to provide this information to the American people. Additionally, to the best of my knowledge, no official has been held accountable for any intelligence failures with regard to vetting the loyalty of the Libyan militias.

I raise these questions today in the context of the piece recently published by Vanity Fair, which is an excerpt from one of the books being written by the Benghazi survivors who have yet to appear before Congress. The book, Under Fire: The Untold Story of the Attack in Benghazi, provides a blow-by-blow account as seen from the eyes of the Diplomatic Security Service agents on the ground that night. The take away: this was a well-planned attack by terrorists who knew what they were doing and who clearly had help from the local militias contracted to provide ''security.''

How else, as the piece points out, would the attackers seem ''to know there were new, uninstalled generators behind the February 17 Martyrs Brigade command post, nestled between the building and the overhand of foliage from the western wall, as well as a dozen jerry cans full of gasoline to power them.'' This gas was used to set the fires in the compound.

There are additional concerns about the security guards outside the consulate who left in a car moments before the assault on the consulate began. According to the Vanity Fair piece:

> The feeling of security was enhanced at 2102 hours when an SSC (Supreme Security Council—a coalition of individual and divergently minded Libyan militias) patrol vehicle arrived. The tan Toyota Hilux pickup, with an extended cargo hold, decorated in the colors and emblem of the SSC, pulled off to the side of the road in front of Charlie–1. The driver shut off the engine. He wasn't alone—the darkened silhouette of another man was seen to his right. The pickup sported twin Soviet-produced 23–mm. anti-aircraft guns—the twin-barreled cannons were lethal against Mach 2.0 fighter aircraft and devastating beyond belief against buildings, vehicles, and humans. The two men inside didn't come out to engage in the usual small talk or to bum some cigarettes from the guards or even to rob them. The Libyan guards, after all, were not armed.
>
> ''Suddenly the SSC militiaman behind the steering wheel fired up his engine and headed west, the vehicle crunching the gravel with the weight of its tires.
>
> ''Later, following the attack, according to the (unclassified) Accountability Review Board report, an SSC official said that ''he ordered the removal of the car 'to prevent civilian casualties.' This hints that the SSC knew an attack was imminent; that it did not warn the security assets in the Special Mission Compound implies that it and elements of the new Libyan government were complicit in the events that transpired.''

Why, indeed, did the SSC guards not notify the consulate that an attack was imminent? And why were they allowed to leave as the terrorists gathered outside the compound? Again, these questions are essential to learning exactly who was responsible for the attack on the consulate.

According to an article by Eli Lake published in The Daily Beast earlier this year, the CIA was ''responsible in part for one major failure the night of the Benghazi attack: his officers were responsible for vetting the February 17 Martyr's Brigade, the militia that was supposed to be the first responder on the night of the attack, but melted away when the diplomatic mission was attacked.''

The article continued, ''Another U.S. intelligence official . . . said the failure for the CIA at Benghazi was the mistaken assumption that the Zintan tribe in Benghazi—that provided many of the fighters for the February 17 Martyr's Brigade—would have the same loyalties as the Zintan tribe in Tripoli, which had protected several senior U.S. officials including Hillary Clinton in her visit last year to Libya. 'The CIA failed at mapping the human terrain,'' this official said. ''They did not understand the politics in Benghazi and we paid the price.''

These are important issues for the Congress to address and we have an obligation to ensure that reforms are made to prevent similar failures in the future. However, to the best of my knowledge, neither the State Department nor the CIA have disclosed who was responsible for vetting the militias, whether there was an intelligence failure or what reforms may have been implemented in the way of the militia's betrayal last September.

To summarize, I ask my colleagues if the Congress can answer these questions and, if not, why?

Was there an intelligence failure in vetting the true loyalty of the Libyan security guards for the U.S. consulate? Which agency was responsible for vetting the militias?

Who provided the terrorists with details of the consulate property? Was it the security guards or someone in the Libyan government who was notified about the ambassador's visit?

Why did the guards in the car outside the consulate not warn the U.S. staff of the gathering terrorists as they drove away a minute before the assault began? Were they complicit in the plot?

When the Congress departs for the August recess in two and a half weeks, will the American people know why, after a year of investigations, who provided the terrorists with insider information about the consulate property and the ambassador's location?

Again, this is why I believe a House Select Committee is the best way forward to ensure that these and other unanswered questions are resolved. To date, 160 House Republicans—nearly three quarters of the entire Republican Conference—have cosponsored H. Res. 36 to create a Select Committee on Benghazi to ensure the American people learn the truth.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 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 $16,738,177,765,933.41. We've added $6,111,300,717,020.33 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.

RECOGNIZING UNITED METHODIST OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing United Methodist Outreach Ministries, an organization devoted to the service and shelter of homeless families in Arizona. Since 1964, they have provided the state of Arizona with the highest quality of service, providing families and individuals with temporary and permanent housing, medical care, child care, and education to rebuild lives traumatized by desperate circumstances.

In addition, I would like to commend the Department of Veterans Affairs for their work in facilitating UMOM's outstanding service. The VA, since 2011, has awarded grants to 319 deserving organizations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia as part of their Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. In July, 2013, for use in the upcoming year, they awarded $300 million that will help approximately 120,000 homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families. UMOM has been awarded an SSVF grant in all three years the program has been active.

One of UMOM's Veterans housing facilities is in my district, and I am thrilled that such an organization is raising the level of care provided to my constituents—the veterans who have given so much to our country. I would like to encourage UMOM and other such organizations to continue serving the most in-need and deserving of Arizona residents with such admirable dedication.

UMOM is a wonderful representative of the non-profit organizations across the country serving our Veterans with the efficient help of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing United Methodist Outreach Ministries for beginning to pay the debt we owe our most honored Veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 354 I was not present due to a flight cancellation and subsequent late arrival.

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

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 355 I was not present due to a flight cancellation and subsequent late arrival.

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

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 356 I was not present due to a flight cancellation and subsequent late arrival.

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

IN HONOR OF CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES IN RECOGNITION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of a place of history and a cornerstone of Los Angeles culture: Chinatown.

Chinatown today is a dynamic neighborhood where the old and new come together harmoniously to create a unique destination point for Angelinos and newcomers alike. It spans 24-city blocks with a bustling commercial district and active residents. When walking down North Broadway, you can see the well-preserved historic architecture and cultural celebrations alongside innovative commercial developments that protect the integrity of the Chinese American community's history in Los Angeles.

Understanding how Los Angeles' Chinatown found a home opens a fascinating window into the quest for dignity and opportunity for Chinese Americans. That journey did not start with the creation of Chinatown in its current location. In fact, it began in 1852 when the first Chinese settled around El Pueblo Plaza. By the 1870s, it had grown to 200 people, mostly male, who made their living as laborers working in laundry, gardening and ranching.

It was during this time of growth that the Chinese community experienced one of the most serious incidents of racial violence in Los Angeles' history, the Massacre of 1871. This horrific event occurred when a mob of over 500 white men entered Chinatown to attack, rob and murder Chinese residents of the city. Despite such severe discrimination, the people of Chinatown persevered and found a way to prosper. Chinatown grew to over 3,000 people, boasting a Chinese Opera theatre, three temples, a newspaper, even a telephone exchange. As the town thrived, residents formed family organizations and church missions.

Even as the Chinese community continued to make significant contributions to Los Angeles and the nation, sadly there was an increase in anti-Chinese sentiment. State laws prohibited the Chinese from owning property and the federal Chinese Exclusion Act barred others in the future from emigrating to the United States. America made life difficult for its people of Chinese heritage.

And it added to the adversity that Old Chinatown in Los Angeles confronted. Starting in 1913, Chinatown faced a continuous threat of relocation as the City of Los Angeles decided that the best location to build Union Station, it's sparkling new railroad station, would be Old Chinatown. After decades of living with the threat of eviction, the Chinese community was forced to relocate in 1931. The residents of Old Chinatown, who had built their lives in this neighborhood, were displaced with no compensation or relocation plans to rebuild their homes and businesses. They were scattered throughout the city.

Hard times were no stranger to the residents of Chinatown. And so, on April 22, 1937, Peter Soohoo brought together a group of 28 prominent Chinese Angelenos for an organizational meeting. They drafted a proposal for a new neighborhood that would combine elements of Chinese design with modern American architecture. This architectural vision would reflect the Chinese American identity that this community had worked so hard to establish.

According to the plan, a private association would wholly manage the project including the financing of it. Thus, the Los Angeles Chinatown Project Association was born. On June 25, 1938, eighteen businesses opened their doors to the public in the New Chinatown, one of the first malls in America and the nation's first modern American "Chinatown."

The Chinese American community continued its impressive growth in Los Angeles. The sons and daughters of these pioneers helped build Chinatown from three buildings on North Broadway into a dynamic commercial district and residential area frequented by both tourists and locals. It is one of Los Angeles' cultural treasures that we must nurture and celebrate.

I commend the hardworking citizens of New Chinatown, some of whom are descendants of its original families, for their dedication to advancing the area, while protecting its history and cultural significance. Their contributions are invaluable and must be applauded.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the ''Diamond Anniversary'' of one of Los Angeles'' great neighborhoods, New Chinatown. We are a better America today because of the visionaries and pioneers who fought to survive the tough times and because of the generations that followed who continue to make our City and our country the home of the American Dream.

TRIBUTE TO THE DAVID LLOYD MITCHELL FAMILY C/O MS. CHARLOTTE MITCHELL, CHAIRMAN FAMILY REUNION 2013

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, family Reunions are very important events and activities in the lives of all people, especially for African Americans in this country who have gone through the experiences of being snatched from their homelands, taken from their tribes, brought to another country, survived hostile environments, experienced discrimination and still stand tall, achieves greatly and is an integral part of American life.

Your family, the decedents of Mr. David Lloyd Mitchell have much for which to be proud. Since his arrival in this country you all have continued to move forward and I commend you for the great research and recordkeeping that someone has done. To trace one's family back to the Reconstruction Period in this country is a feat in and of itself. There has obviously been a great emphasis placed on education as evidenced by the presence of more than thirty attorneys, medical doctors and Ph.D.'s, more than 200 Master Degrees, 500 plus Bachelors and I are sure that there is a great assortment of other achievements and accomplishments made by members of your family.

I congratulate the family of Mr. David Lloyd Mitchell, commend you for your outstanding accomplishments and wish you well as you continue to reach new heights each and every day.

Welcome to Chicago and enjoy your family reunion on July 26–28th.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRED SERGEANT MAJOR HOWARD BAKEMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise a true American hero, retired Army Sergeant Major Howard Bakeman, who passed away on June 1, 2013, at the age 95.

A veteran of World War II, Mr. Bakeman survived the attack on Pearl Harbor while serving as a staff sergeant at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. Remarkably, two of his brothers were also stationed at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack and all three survived. After the war, he remained in the Army through peace-time and was again called to action in 1950 to serve his country in the Korean conflict.

In 1959, he was promoted to Sergeant Major, serving nine more years before fulfilling his obligation to Uncle Sam.

After completing his active duty tour, Mr. Bakeman moved to Mobile in 1968 where he worked for two years as an Army ROTC instructor at Citronelle High School. During his time in Citronelle, he was recognized for having the largest number of Army cadets to enlist from any of the schools in Mobile County.

Mr. Bakeman's dedication to duty was typical of many who served during what is often described as ''the greatest generation.'' He loved what he did and looked at his time served as an adventure. In an interview early last year with Mobile's Fox 10 television, he observed, ''I didn't have to pay for anything. It's not every employer that pays you to go to these exotic countries.''

Mr. Bakeman also offered some advice on life and patriotism. ''Be respectful. Remember where you came from. Remember where you are living. Respect authority and respect the flag. Now if they can't do that, they better pack and haul it. There's absolutely no excuse.''

Mr. Bakeman hailed from a family of dedicated servicemen—along with his father and two brothers—the Bakeman men served a combined total of 123 years in the armed forces. What's more, even well into his 90's, Mr. Bakeman was a familiar presence at local events honoring our veterans. He always wore his uniform proudly.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend heartfelt condolences to his niece, Elizabeth Lynch, and his entire family and many friends. We will forever be indebted to his heroism and his service to our nation.

MELVIN DOW

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the fine career and outstanding community involvement of a great Houstonian, a devoted public servant and my friend, Melvin Dow. Melvin is retiring after 62 years of service to our community. It is an honor for me to recognize Melvin, not only for his numerous professional accomplishments and many contributions to our community, but also for his service to our country.

After graduating from Rice University, Melvin earned his law degree from Harvard Law School where he graduated magna cum laude and served as editor of the Harvard Law Review. Melvin began his career and service with the United States Army, where he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant, in the Army General Counsel's Office in the Pentagon. Following his service in the Army, Melvin moved back to Houston to begin his legal career in Harris County.

Melvin's extensive knowledge of the justice system and his incredible work ethic quickly gained him respect from his colleagues in the law profession. Over his career, Melvin was routinely recognized for his expertise and contributions to the legal community. He was included in the Best Lawyers in America for 28 consecutive years and was listed as a ''Super Lawyer'' by Texas Monthly Magazine for multiple years. In addition, Melvin serves as a member of the Harvard Law School's Board of Overseers' Visiting Committee.

In addition to his notable recognition for his work within the legal community, Melvin has also earned acknowledgements for his work within the Jewish-American community. Melvin is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and Melitz, and Melvin serves on the Advisory Boards of the University of Texas Hillel Foundation, the Rice University Jewish Studies Program, and Congregation Beth Yeshurun of Houston. Melvin previously served as National President of AIPAC, trustee of the Jewish Publication Society, President of Congregation Beth Yeshurun, Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Houston and on the Board of Trustees of St. John's School. The list of this model citizen's accomplishments is impressive and well-deserved. Melvin's service to his city, state and nation as well as his faith will have an enduring positive impact.

A dedicated family man, Melvin has been married to his wife, Frieda, for 55 years. Together, they are the proud parents of five sons and grandparents to nine granddaughters and three grandsons.

I have had the opportunity to travel with Melvin and Frieda to Israel and observe firsthand their dedication to Israel's Absolute Right to Exist and to be a free democratic Republic.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I commend this remarkable Texan for his exemplary service and dedication to Harris County and to the State of Texas. Thank you, Melvin, for a lifetime of remarkable achievements within the legal community and for your steadfast commitment in helping to better your community.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM FRANCIS HARTNETT, JR.

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable individual, William Francis Hartnett, Jr., who passed away on July 15, 2013. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to our county.

Mr. Hartnett attended St. Michael's College, Middlebury College, and Cornell University. He was also a graduate of Fordham University School of Law. After earning his J.D., he practiced law in both New York City and Port Washington, New York.

Mr. Hartnett had a servant's heart. For four years he served our nation as an officer in the United States Navy and continued to serve Americans as a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Hartnett also served his community as Assistant to the Vice Chairman of the New York Housing Authority, Counsel to the Board of the New York City Board of Higher Education, and as East Meadow School Board President. Mr. Hartnett served on numerous boards, including St. Francis Hospital, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the Chicago Public Library, Chicago Catholic Charities, and many more. Mr. Hartnett also served on the Board of La Lumiere School in La Porte, Indiana.

Mr. Hartnett was the Founder of both William F. Hartnett and Associates and Hartnett-Shaw Development Corporation. He developed many commercial, residential and industrial real estate projects across the country, including Lake Point Tower in Chicago, United Nations Plaza in New York, Williams Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Century City in Los Angeles.

Mr. Hartnett was a family man who is survived by Lorranye, his loving wife of sixty-three years, four children, seventeen grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. William Francis Hartnett, Jr. was a man truly committed to his family, his community, his faith, and his country. America is a better nation because of Bill Hartnett, and I am lucky to know his family—his best achievement. He will be truly missed. Thank you and rest in peace, Mr. Hartnett.

TRIBUTE TO WINTHROP M. HALLET, III, PRESIDENT OF THE MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Winthrop M. Hallett, III, as he leaves his post as President of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce on July 31, 2013. For decades Win has been a strong advocate for our community and his positive influence will be felt for many years to come as our economy continues to expand and prosper.

A native of Mobile, Win attended Vanderbilt University and graduated with a bachelor's in economics. Soon after graduation, he was faced with leading his family's building materials business after the sudden death of his father. He rose to the occasion and continued to serve as owner and operator for 20 years. In 1991, following the good advice of a close friend, he opened a new chapter in his life by going to work for the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

Known for putting others above himself, Win quickly took to the role of building a better Mobile. He focused on polishing Mobile's image as an ideal place to do business and raise a family. Due in no small part to his steadfast efforts, Mobile received the coveted All-America City award in 1995. His tenure was marked by one success after another, bringing in new commerce and industry and helping to transform Mobile into a true business destination.

In particular, I would like to point out that Win was instrumental in helping to recruit major transformational businesses to our region, including Mobile Aerospace, Austal, ThyssenKrupp and Airbus. It was an honor to work with him on these and many other economic development efforts to benefit South Alabama.

Continuing to use his keen business mind for the good of others, Win also served with the United States Chamber of Commerce as chairman of the Chamber Committee of 100. He was also a member of the Board of Directors and Board Nominating Committee and Chairman of the Accrediting Board and the Bylaws Committee. He also served as Chairman of the Metropolitan Cities Council and is a member of the ACCE's Board of Directors. Win has also held leadership positions in various organizations around Mobile, such as the Rotary Club of Mobile, the Mobile YMCA, the Alabama Wildlife Federation, and Leadership Mobile.

Win's love for Mobile can be seen in his involvement in numerous local organizations. He is the Vice President of the Coastal Land Trust and the Vice Chairman of the Alabama District Export Council. He is a member of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Executive Committee and the Aerospace Alliance. And he achieved the honor of graduating from Leadership Alabama and the Center for Creative Leadership.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Mobile and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I would like to extend my personal appreciation, gratitude and highest regards to Mr. Winthrop M. Hallett, III, for his untiring, selfless service to Mobile and South Alabama. I wish him and his entire family the very best in their future endeavors.

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 Thursday, July 18, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 22

3 p.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Army Corps of Engineers water management in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) river systems.

SD–406

JULY 23

9 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph Y. Yun, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to Malaysia, Daniel A. Clune, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Morrell John Berry, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Australia, all of the Department of State.

SD–419

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for Financial Services and General Government.

SD–138

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine financial holding companies, focusing on if banks should control power plants, warehouses, and oil refineries.

SD–538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

To hold hearings to examine New England and mid-Atlantic perspectives on ''Magnuson-Stevens Act'' reauthorization.

SR–253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kenneth J. Kopocis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, James J. Jones, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances, and Avi Garbow, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, all of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD–406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine National Labor Relations Board nominees.

SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine pay-for-delay deals, focusing on competition and consumers.

SD–226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Krysta L. Harden, of Georgia, to be Deputy Secretary, and Robert Bonnie, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, both of the Department of Agriculture.

SR–328A

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs.

SD–138

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the impact of sequestration on national security and the economy.

SD–608

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the 90/10 rule, focusing on improving educational outcomes for our military and veterans.

SD–342

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. Res. 156, expressing the sense of the Senate on the 10-year anniversary of NATO Allied Command Transformation, embassy security legislation, and 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.

S–116

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To resume hearings to examine S. 1273, to establish a partnership between States that produce energy onshore and offshore for our country with the Federal Government.

SD–366

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

3 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine creating a housing finance system built to last, focusing on ensuring access for community institutions.

SD–538

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Bankruptcy and the Courts

To hold hearings to examine how sequestration is effecting the courts.

SD–226

JULY 24

9:50 a.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

Business meeting to consider S. 375, to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form, and the nomination of Davita Vance-Cooks, of Virginia, to be Public Printer, Government Printing Office.

SR–301

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the ''Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Solvency Act of 2013''.

SD–538

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine implementation of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century's (MAP–21) ''Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act'' (TIFIA) program enhancements.

SD–406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Kent Yoshiho Hirozawa, of New York, and Nancy Jean Schiffer, of Maryland, both to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, and any pending nominations.

SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cornelia T. L. Pillard, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Landya B. McCafferty, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire, Brian Morris, and Susan P. Watters, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Montana, and Jeffrey Alker Meyer, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

SD–226

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ann Miller Ravel, of California, and Lee E. Goodman, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission.

SR–301

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine America's crumbling infrastructure, and how to fix it.

TBA

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine health information technology, focusing on using it to improve care.

SD–215

2 p.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Superfund, Toxics and Environmental Health
To hold hearings to examine cleaning up and restoring communities for economic revitalization.
SD–406

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs
To hold hearings to examine rebalance to Asia III, focusing on protecting the environment and ensuring food and water security in East Asia and the Pacific.
SD–419

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights
To hold hearings to examine closing Guantanamo, focusing on the national security, fiscal, and human rights implications.
SD–226

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine payday loans.
SD–562

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine cruise industry oversight, focusing on the need for a stronger focus on consumer protection.
SR–253

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine implementation of the ''Affordable Care Act'', focusing on understanding small business concerns.
SR–428

JULY 25

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephen Woolman Preston, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel, Jon T. Rymer, of Tennessee, to be Inspector General, Susan J. Rabern, of Kansas, to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management and Comptroller, and Dennis V. McGinn, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment, all of the Department of Defense.
SH–216

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine supplemental funding options to support the National Park Service's efforts to address deferred maintenance and operational needs.
SD–366

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water and Power
To hold hearings to examine the issues associated with aging water resource infrastructure in the United States.
SD–366

Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

JULY 30

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining
To hold hearings to examine S. 37, to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, S. 343, 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, S. 364, to establish the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area, to designate certain Federal land as wilderness, and to improve the management of noxious weeds in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, S. 404, to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, S. 753, to provide for national security benefits for White Sands Missile Range and Fort Bliss, S. 1169, to withdraw and reserve certain public land in the State of Montana for the Limestone Hills Training Area, S. 1294, to designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, S. 1300, to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for the conduct of stewardship end result contracting projects, S. 1301, to provide for the restoration of forest landscapes, protection of old growth forests, and management of national forests in the eastside forests of the State of Oregon, S. 1309, to withdraw and reserve certain public land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior for military uses, H.R. 507, to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, H.R. 862, to authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960, and H.R. 876, to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho.
SD–366

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 1240, to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a consensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste.
SD–366

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