

American involvement and contribution will no doubt set a long-deserved example of peaceful relations and economic cooperation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 431, I was unavoidably detained at a personal doctor's appointment.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

A TRIBUTE TO LAURA JACKSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Laura Jackson for being named a 2013 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Each year, Business Record undertakes an exhaustive review to identify a standout group of women in the Greater Des Moines area who, as the publication notes, "have made a difference." An impressive group of inspiring female leaders are selected annually for this prestigious distinction, which is based on combined criteria of community involvement, career success, and being a role model for other women to emulate. The 2013 Women of Influence honorees join an impressive roster of more than 130 women who have changed and are continuing to change our communities for the better.

Laura Jackson is motivated by the responsibility of other people counting on her. As Executive Vice President of Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, she takes this attitude with her every day on the job while also focusing on being the best team player she can be. At each stage of her thriving career, Mrs. Jackson can think of key advice from mentors that guided her own decisions—which in turn has helped her guide others as a human resources professional. She currently chairs the Wellness Council of Iowa and co-chairs the Capital Crossroads Wellness Capital working group. She also serves on the boards of the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative, the Healthiest State Initiative and the YMCA of Greater Des Moines.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Laura Jackson in the United States Congress, and I am pleased to recognize her for working to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Women of Influence class continued success.

IRS EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY
ACT OF 2013

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my bill, the IRS Employee Responsibility Act of 2013, which requires IRS employees who violate the law to be personally responsible for their own legal fees and personally responsible for any legal judgment awarded. The hard-working American taxpayer should not be responsible for the cost of defending IRS employees who break the law and are shouldn't be responsible for any legal judgment awarded in a civil suit.

My legislation simply requires IRS employees to take responsibility for their actions in the same manner any private employee has to when they are sued in civil court.

Mr. Speaker, despite what the President has said, the targeting of conservative organizations for extra scrutiny is a real scandal and is simply reprehensible. The thin line of trust between the individual and their government has been broken and we must work to rebuild it. I am strongly urging Congress to continue its investigation into the IRS and to make sure those responsibly are held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. I am also joining other Members of Congress calling on Treasury Secretary Jack Lew to investigate the actions of the IRS. I am committed to making sure the IRS is never again used as a political weapon against any group, conservative or otherwise and my bill will ensure that if any employees violate the law they are personally responsible for their own legal fees and any judgment.

It is unfortunate that we have seen very little action from the Administration to punish these employees with at least one on paid leave. This body must Act to ensure this never happens again.

Simply put, I believe when IRS employees are on the hook for their actions and know there are real consequences, they make better decisions. As a farmer and owner of a business, I am responsible for my own actions and work to ensure I am following the law. It's time the IRS does the same.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the IRS Employee Responsibility Act of 2013 in order to ensure American families and taxpayers have trust in their government.

IN RECOGNITION OF LARRY
BUCKMASTER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Larry Buckmaster who is retiring as the President and CEO of the Redwood City-San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce after 30 years of outstanding service to our community.

Larry is the type of person who creates a community through performing multiple acts of stewardship each and every day—he has done so for decades. Let me give you just a few examples.

When Larry Buckmaster took over the Redwood City-San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce it had a deficit and membership lagged. He almost immediately turned it around and led the board to boost both membership and participation by members in various chamber events.

Second, America needs leaders. It's tough to find them. Leadership means putting your neck on the line and exposing yourself to criticism. Larry Buckmaster knew that Redwood City and the San Francisco Peninsula needed a new generation of leadership. He founded the Leadership Redwood City/San Carlos/Belmont program so that business and government professionals would learn from each other and hear from current leaders about issues that are shaping the community. Most importantly, Larry Buckmaster wanted students to be inspired to step up and become community leaders in their own right. The proof of Larry's wisdom and his success is around us each day. Over 800 students have heard from state legislators, members of Congress, city council members, as well as the staff of local and state governments. Many members of city councils, commissions, the Board of Supervisors and the State Legislature were first inspired to public service by the leadership class created by Larry Buckmaster.

Leadership by example is Larry Buckmaster's creed. Kainos is a non-profit dedicated to helping those with developmental disabilities, and Larry's leadership is exemplified by the \$750,000 raised over the years through a golfing tournament held annually to benefit Kainos. Larry, an avid golfer with a hole in one to his credit, brought his love of people and his skill as a golfer together to create this community benefit event.

The Progress Seminar is an annual event at which community leaders spend a weekend together thinking and talking about the major issues impacting our region. Larry Buckmaster has grown this seminar into a sold-out event for many years, and ideas that sprout from the seminar often become solutions via city council and other activities, both public and private.

Mr. Speaker and members, Larry Buckmaster has his quirks. He loves reading his emails and rarely responds. His filing system is a mess yet he can find everything. He is an avid reader who consumes one book per week, often military histories. Unfortunately, Larry roots for the Chicago Bears. We in the San Francisco Bay Area adore Larry so much that we will forgive his choice of football teams. It's only explicable when you realize that Larry was raised in Illinois and thus never really understood our wonderful 49ers until it was too late in life to surgically correct his unfortunate allegiance to a different team. Thankfully, Larry has shown great judgment in other matters, eschewing party politics, petty politics and self-aggrandizement. In fact, Larry Buckmaster always points to the accomplishments of his staff rather than to his own, demonstrating that he really is a great leader even if he is a poor judge of quality football teams.

Larry Buckmaster is a natural athlete and has coached over 500 children in softball and soccer. He is proud when one of the former players says that Larry saw something great in them as a child and that this turned around the life of the child. Larry and Joan, his wife of 48 years, have three children and six grandchildren. It is said that his grandchildren turn him to mush, not too surprising given his love of children.