

and Congressman WATT, which I believe strikes a more equitable balance than this legislation and which did not contain any fee shifting provisions. I look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues in the Senate to produce an ultimate agreement that stops patent trolls and continues to protect the pursuit of legitimate patent infringement claims.

ISRAEL QME ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, one of the cornerstones of America's security commitment to Israel is an assurance that the United States will help maintain Israel's capability to defend itself, by itself. We do this by safeguarding Israel's qualitative military edge (QME)—the ability for Israel to counter and defeat any threat that might arise from non-state actors, individual states, or even a regional coalition of states.

Four decades after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when a coalition of Arab states launched a surprise attack against Israel on the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, Israel continues to face hostilities on every border: rocket fire from Hamas and Hezbollah, spillover from the conflict in Syria, increased terrorism in Egypt's Sinai, and the ever-looming threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.

That is why it is critical we redouble our efforts to ensure Israel has the tools necessary to counter any and all threats. H.R. 1992, the Israel QME Enhancement Act, is an important piece of bipartisan legislation that does just that, by preserving and strengthening Israel's QME. Specifically, this law would expand the definition of QME to include defense against cyber and asymmetric threats while also increasing the Administration's reporting requirements to Congress from every 4 to every 2 years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1992.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE GEORGE R. GREENE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today we ask for the House's attention to honor Circuit Court Judge George R. Greene, who is retiring from his position as the Circuit Court Judge in Russell County.

In 1975, Judge Greene began serving in the Russell County District Attorney's office as the Assistant District Attorney. He served in the position for four years until 1979, when he was appointed District Judge in Russell County. Judge Greene served as District Judge for over 18 years, and he was elected to this position in three different elections. In 1998, Judge Greene was elected to serve Russell County as the Circuit Court Judge. He has held the office of Circuit Court Judge since that election.

Judge George R. Greene is one of the longest serving judges in the state of Alabama, having served 31 years in the Judicial 26th Circuit. He is also dedicated to his community, and he is known for his selfless public service. He is involved in numerous civic and state public service organizations. One of his initiatives was the establishment of the Cora Reid Greene Home for Children, which provides protection and housing for abused children in the Russell County Area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Judge Greene for his tireless pursuit of justice in Russell County. Join me also in wishing him the best in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I was participating in a Congressional Delegation trip to South Africa to honor the life and legacy of President Nelson Mandela and missed the following votes:

1. H.R. 2019 Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

2. H.R. 2319—The Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

3. S. 1471—Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

4. H.R. 3212—Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction prevention and Return Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

5. H.R. 1992—Israel QME Enhanced Act, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

6. Journal Vote—Had I been present for the journal vote, I would have voted "yes".

TO HONOR DOUGLAS GREENFIELD ON HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Douglas Greenfield on his 85th birthday. Douglas lives a competitive and successful life in Levittown, PA. He has been an active bowler for the past 50 years and won a bet in the 1960's to walk 50 miles through Bucks County in one day.

Supporting the community's youth is another passion of Mr. Greenfield. In the 60's and 70's he was active with the Boy Scouts of America and taught Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (C.C.D.) at Bishop Egan High School. He also worked to establish the Pennsbury High School boys lacrosse team and today, students still recognize "Gran-Pa" for his tireless effort on and off the field.

A true American role model, Doug, and his wife, Alice, continue to volunteer in their church and community in my home town, Levittown, PA. I want to wish Doug a very Happy 85th Birthday.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3458, THE FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE TAX CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2013

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, we're here today because of a heinous act that took place in Webster, New York on December 24th, 2012, when a group of volunteer firefighters responding to a fire was ambushed by a gunman who had deliberately set the fire. Two firefighters were killed and two others were injured.

While donations for the firefighters and their families were made to the West Webster Fire Department, a 501(c)(3) organization, the rules governing non-profit groups prevent the funds from being distributed in a way that does not further the organization's exempt purpose. In this case, these rules prevented the donations from being distributed as intended to the victims and their families.

I am proud to stand here today in support of the "Fallen Firefighters Assistance Tax Clarification Act of 2013," introduced by my colleague from New York Rep. LOUISE SLAUGHTER to address the error and help care for these firefighters and their families.

With the anniversary of this terrible act approaching, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the memory and sacrifice of these volunteer responders and approve this common sense legislation.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSIT PARITY ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Transit Parity Act of 2013. The bill will extend federal tax benefits for mass transit and parking at current levels for one year. There is currently a permanent provision providing federal tax benefits for parking and mass transit; however, the mass transit benefit is funded at half the level of the parking benefit. The mass transit benefit was temporarily raised this year, but with cuts to the mass transit benefit set to occur on January 1, 2014, impacts will be felt throughout this region and the country.

Millions of people commute in and out of cities every day, bolstering their economies and improving the overall wellbeing of the country, with this region as a prime example. Why would we want to encourage people to drive rather than use mass transit? At the very least, there is no excuse for preferential treatment of driving.

I support a permanent equalization of commuter benefits, but given the costs associated with a permanent extension, the focus of this bill is a temporary one-year extension of benefits. I will seek to bring this bill to the floor before Congress adjourns for the year. If the bill is not passed before then, I will seek retroactive equalization of benefits.

The bill will continue to encourage commuters to use mass transit by equalizing tax

benefits for mass transit and parking. Congress did the sensible thing when it increased the commuter benefit cap to \$245 per month, the same as for parking earlier this year. Unless Congress takes action now, however, mass transit benefits will decrease by nearly 50 percent, to \$130, while the benefit for parking will increase to \$250. However, this bill makes federal tax benefits for mass transit and parking equal at \$250 in 2014. I support a permanent equalization of commuter benefits, but given the costs associated with a permanent extension, the focus of this bill is on a one-year extension of equal benefits.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

HONORING DONNA HOFFER ON
HER RETIREMENT FROM THE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna Hoffer as she retires after more than thirty years of faithful, dedicated service to Southeast Michigan. As she retires at the end of this year, I honor and recognize her dedication, passion, and hard work in service to the Southeast Michigan, and the people I have served since 1982.

In 1982 Monroe County became part of my Congressional District. I asked the community's leadership for recommendation of a fine and committed civil servant. Donna Hoffer was unanimously recommended and she joined the staff, managing the Monroe district office for 29 years. She competently and astutely served the community as my representative, in addition to handling a complex variety of case-work including Social Security matters, of which she is an expert. When redistricting occurred and I lost Monroe County, Donna stayed on, serving well in our Ypsilanti office.

Donna's loyalty to the office and steadfast dedication in her service to the District has stood out through the years, and it has no bounds. Just recently, Donna played an instrumental role in having a lung transplant denial overturned, giving another chance at life to a desperate constituent. Donna has been a critical part of my staff and I am honored that she has spent her career serving the people of my Congressional District.

I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Donna in her retirement and hope that she enjoys the time with her husband, Mick, their two children and four grandchildren. I sincerely thank her for the loyal years she has given in service to Southeast Michigan. She is a dear friend and is the kind of public servant who brings credit on our Government with her faithful and dedicated effort on the behalf of the people we are honored to serve.

HONORING THE CENTRAL
CATHOLIC RAMS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, victories on the field are much sweeter when achieved by a team, dedicated in unity to achieving its goals. This week the Central Catholic Rams won the OSAA Class 6A Championship, defeating their archrival Jesuit 38–28. It was a fitting end to a 14–0 season and showed what can be done with teamwork and effort.

In a truly dominant year, both during the regular season and playoffs, the young men of Central Catholic, their coaches, and their supporters inspired their fellow students and the community through their exemplary actions on and off the field. This is a season that can inspire great pride as the 2013 Rams join the 1952 and 1953 championship teams in the halls of glory.

Go Rams!

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF
MS. DOLORES DUNN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service, dedication, and accomplishments of Ms. Dolores Dunn, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, upon the occasion of her retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ms. Dunn graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland in 1978. In 1981, she began her congressional staff career in the office of the late Congressman Bob Stump, where she worked for twenty-two years to serve the citizens of the 3rd Congressional District of Arizona.

In 2003, she joined the staff of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Due to her steadfast commitment to her work and her expertise in veterans' health, Ms. Dunn was named Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Health in 2007.

For Ms. Dunn—the daughter of an Army nurse who served in World War II and the sister and aunt, respectively, of female combat veterans who served in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom—the Committee's work is a personal calling.

Throughout her tenure on the Committee staff, Ms. Dunn faithfully served three different Committee Chairmen—CHRIS SMITH, Steve Buyer, and myself—as well as countless other Members. I know I speak for us all when I say that her wise advice and sage counsel was instrumental in assisting us in honoring the service and sacrifice of America's servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Ms. Dunn was a key contributor in the drafting and passage of landmark pieces of veterans' health legislation and personally contributed to the creation of policies that continue to improve the daily lives and ongoing well-being of veterans and their families.

Her skilled leadership and accomplished service on behalf of veterans was recognized in 2012 when she was awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart Exemplary Service Award and an Award of Appreciation from the National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations.

Over a long and multifaceted career of distinguished service in the halls of Congress, Ms. Dunn has been a tireless advocate for the interests of American's veterans and taxpayers, embodying excellence and commitment in service to her fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it gives me great pride to honor the selfless service of Ms. Dolores Dunn.

My wife, Vicki, joins me in honoring her for her thirty-two consecutive years of exemplary service to our Nation, thanking her for her unyielding dedication to America's veterans, and wishing her and her husband, Richard, all of the best in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING KAREN
HEYREND

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Karen Heyrend, President of the Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors, who has demonstrated a personal dedication and commitment in carrying out the mission of the Association, which is to be the primary source of real estate products and services for its member brokers and agents in West Ventura County.

Under her outstanding leadership during 2013, Karen has upheld the Association's priorities of maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct, all while providing a wide array of benefits to the Association's membership of designated brokers, realtors, and affiliate members.

Karen has worked to provide quality service, not only to realtor members, but also to their clients and customers. Representing the cities of Camarillo, Oxnard, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Port Hueneme, and Ventura, she has helped to strengthen the integrity, competency, and professionalism of the Association's members.

Karen's service to the Association goes far beyond her term as President. As a member of the Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors for the past thirteen years, Karen has diligently served on the Association's Board of Directors as President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer and Director.

As the lead representative of the Association, Karen represented its members at the National Association of Realtors mid-year meetings, where she met with Federal, State and local government officials and elected representatives.

Through her work, Karen has demonstrated a proud and enduring enthusiasm for the real estate profession that she has chosen as her life-long career. I want to congratulate Karen on her successes and for her tireless dedication to the Association, both past and present.

I am pleased to recognize Karen Heyrend on her personal and professional accomplishments and exemplary year as President of