EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ALL AMERICANS' RIGHT TO LIFE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on January 22, 2013, we remembered the unborn children who have died as a direct result of the Supreme Court's rulings in Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton on January 22, 1973.

An estimated 55 million children have been aborted in the United States since those Supreme Court decisions were handed down from our Nation's highest court 41 years ago. This staggering number represents nearly three times the total population of my home state of Florida. In 2012 alone, Planned Parenthood reported performing 330,000 abortion procedures—more than the entire population of Orlando.

On this 41st anniversary of those historic decisions, I mourn for the loss of our Nation's unborn children and for their families. Every child is an invaluable gift with unique talents, interests and personality. My wife, Sandy, and I have six children, and it has been a privilege to raise them and watch them as they've grown over the years. Three of our children are now married, and Sandy and I have eight beautiful grandchildren. As our family continues to grow, it is a blessing to welcome more grandchildren and great-grandchildren into our lives.

Life is a precious gift, and I am grateful every day for the lives of my children and grandchildren. I am saddened by the loss of 55 million unborn children, children who would have lived to be our cherished sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters, our neighbors, and our friends. Our Nation is strongest when every child's right to life is honored. To that end, we must never cease to fight for life, nor cease to be grateful for our own.

HONORING MEREDITH EARL ROBERTS FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful man and close friend, Meredith Earl Roberts, Jr., of Longview, TX, who passed away on January 2, 2014, at the age of 77 following a brief battle with cancer. Earl was one of the most influential leaders in Longview for many years and leaves an extraordinary legacy of service.

Born and raised in Longview, Earl earned a Bachelor of Arts from Baylor University and a law degree from The University of Texas. He was an esteemed attorney in Longview for more than 50 years, serving as President of the Gregg County Bar Association. He also served as an advisor to the City Council and was an attorney for the Sabine River Authority of Texas for 35 years, during which time he helped to acquire land for the Lake Fork Reservoir.

Earl's parents impressed upon him the value of community service, and he devoted a lifetime to many worthy causes. From 2000 to 2003, Earl served as Mayor of Longview. As Mayor, Earl established public transportation in Longview, developed water resources, and reduced the City's debt, among other accomplishments. Earl also served on the Board of Directors of many not-for-profit organizations, including the Longview YMCA, the Longview Chamber of Commerce, the Longview Economic Development Foundation, LeTourneau University, and the Highway 80 Rescue Mission. Additionally, he served as Chairman of Deacons at First Baptist Church of Longview where he taught Sunday School for many years.

Earl was an avid runner who could be found on the streets in the early morning with his fellow group of runners affectionately known as ''The Pack of Fools.'' In addition to numerous local races, he participated in more than 40 marathons, including five times in the Boston Marathon.

Earl was an outstanding American, a leader in his hometown, and beloved by all who knew him. I am proud to have known him as a personal friend. He was always loyal to his family and will be remembered fondly by his wife of 55 years, Elizabeth Hull ''Betty'' Roberts; his two children Murray and David, along with David's wife Amanda; his siblings Claire and James; his five grandchildren; and other family members and friends. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great American, Earl Roberts, Jr. Longview has lost one of its favorites sons.

HONORING JOHN DOWLING'S SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Dowling, Middleport Township Supervisor, and to recognize his many years of service to the citizens of the City of Watseka, Iroquois County and the State of Illinois.

Mr. Dowling has served for 35 years in education as a teacher, coach and administrator in the Watseka Unit 9 District. For the past twenty five years, John has also been a member of the Watseka Public Library Board and plans to serve in this role until his term expires. Additionally, he served on the Iroquois County Board for 26 years until November 2010 when he retired.

In recognition of his tremendous service to the community, he has been named the Watseka Citizen of the Year and awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce and the Iroquois County Times Republic.

Mr. Dowling will be retiring from the position of Middleport Township Supervisor at the end of March and I would like to thank him for all he has done for the residents of Middleport Township, the City of Watseka, and Iroquois County. He has been a leader and advocate for many important issues throughout his years of service, and has become a well-respected member of the community.

While he is leaving this post and heading into retirement, I know that Mr. Dowling will always be there to lend a helping hand or give advice to those in need. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to John Dowling for his exemplary service and dedication.

RECOGNIZING JOE CRANKSHAW

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joe Crankshaw for his 56 years in the newspaper business. Mr. Crankshaw was born during the Great Depression, an era in journalism known as the ''Age of the Columnists'' which saw a rise in photojournalism and 35mm photography. It was the heyday of newsreels and copy was still done by typewriters and edited with scissors and glue.

Mr. Crankshaw began his career in 1958 when he was hired by Ernie Lyons, editor of the then-weekly Stuart News. After five years, Mr. Crankshaw moved on to The Florida Times Union and The Miami Herald where his stories consistently made the front page.

In 1991 Mr. Crankshaw rejoined the Scripps Treasure Coast team where he was recognized as one of the best by his publisher and colleagues. In the years since, Mr. Crankshaw has been quick to take advantage of modern technology and the many more recent innovations in media. According to a Scripps Treasure Coast reporter, Mr. Crankshaw received an iPhone for his 80th birthday and within a few days was sharing apps with co-workers half his age.

It is humbling to recognize Mr. Crankshaw's engagement and activism outside of the newsroom. In addition to being a family man with two daughters and two stepchildren, Mr. Crankshaw loves sharing his knowledge and experiences to those with journalistic ambitions. Last year, he presented a guest lecture to journalism students in Utah where he was warmly welcomed via video conferencing. A Korean War veteran, he has always made it a mission to keep the best interests of our military and veterans and their families a priority; and ultimately, Mr. Crankshaw has served as a role model and inspiring figure in northern

Palm Beach and Treasure Coast communities. Though he will be sincerely missed in the newsroom, I wish him the best in retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARRY BROWN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce an article entitled "Garry Brown will join a Hall of Fame that would be incomplete without him" that was published in the Springfield Republican on January 28, 2014. This tribute written by Ron Chimelis highlights the outstanding career of Garry Brown.

Garry has been a well-known and beloved sports writer in Western Massachusetts for over sixty years. Even after retiring, he still offers features and his famed column Hitting on All Fields, which he has written for the Springfield Republican for over forty years. Garry's passion and dedication to all sports in Western Massachusetts has earned him the admiration of his readers as well as his peers. As a result, Garry was inducted into the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame on Friday, January 31, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to congratulate Garry on this well-deserved honor and wish him the best in the future.

GARRY BROWN WILL JOIN A HALL OF FAME THAT WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT HIM

(By Ron Chimelis, The Republican)

He was born in the same year as Mickey Mantle, grew up watching Ted Williams and began his sports writing career when Joe DiMaggio was playing center field at Yankee Stadium.

Garry Brown was there at Busch Stadium in 2004, when the Boston Red Sox ended an 86-year World Series title drought. His encyclopedic knowledge of baseball's local history is unmatched.

It is not who he has covered or where he has been, however, that best defines Brown. It is how he is viewed by others who find themselves practically forcing well-deserved honors upon a man too humble to expect them.

One such honor will come Friday night. Brown is part of the seven-man inaugural class of the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame, which will hold enshrinement at the La Quinta Inn & Suites in Springfield.

No individual—not a player, manager or executive—has lived a life more interwoven with baseball's local history than Brown, who is still going strong at The Republican in Springfield.

Technically, he is retired. That has not stopped the 82-year-old from continuing to offer features, retrospectives, and live coverage of the Springfield Falcons.

He is still serving up "Hitting to All Fields," which has survived 40 years of seismic change in newspapers.

Achievements? Let's run down a few, sticking to baseball because the overall list is too long.

Brown was a high school beat writer from 1952–66, which he calls his favorite time. He covered Pittsfield's run to the 1960 state title and that summer's American Legion World Series, with a 15-year-old shortstop named Mark Belanger leading the way.

How about Chicopee High's three straight state titles from 1961–63? When fellow Hall of Fame inductee Al Stanek struck out 25 and Amherst's Cliff Allen whiffed 16 in Chicopee's 1–0 tourney win in 1960, Brown was there.

He was the Red Sox beat writer from 1986 to June 2009, but also covered the World Series in 1967 and 1975. That was Brown, writing on deadline when Carlton Fisk's home run and Bill Buckner's error changed history.

Awards? A story on Carl Yastrzemski's final weekend made "Best Sports Stories of 1983." The American Legion's national award saluted his coverage in 1963.

In 2002, Brown was in his 52nd year of writing when he earned a New England award for columns. In 2003, the Boston Chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America honored him with the prestigious Dave O'Hara Award, a prized honor that signifies recognition by one's peers.

The night was memorable. So was the acceptance speech by a man whose humility is rare for his field.

"I do get tired of people asking me if Cy Young was a nice guy," said Brown, who paused for effect.

"He was," the honoree said, drawing warm laughter and applause from the crowd. He won the Kid Gore Award for high school coverage in 1998. That's associated with basketball, but it's still a biggie.

When the Springfield Public Schools Sports Hall of Fame selected its inaugural class, the committee wanted badly to elect Brown as a contributor. He respectfully declined, saying the first year should be reserved for the athletes.

He was elected in the second.

He campaigned tirelessly for a return of minor league baseball to Springfield. Had it materialized, a popular public choice for the new ballpark's name over his objections was Garry Brown Stadium.

For the Western Mass. Baseball Hall of Fame, Brown was elected unanimously before he could say no.

Now in his seventh decade of service, Brown was asked about the attributes that made him a success.

"Not knowing when to quit," he said with typical self-effacing humor.

That knowledge, or lack of it, has been a blessing to his readers and made this region a much better place. The Western Mass. Baseball Hall of Fame would be incomplete without him, even if an ageless writer for all ages would never say so himself.

HONORING HAROLD PAYNE, A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding American and veteran of the Second World War, Harold Payne of Caddo Mills, TX, who passed away December 8, 2013 at the age of 92.

Harold was an extraordinary man in many ways. Born and raised in Caddo Mills, Harold was voted class president of Caddo Mills High School where he also captained several athletic teams. Harold attended college at East Texas State University and then served his country as a pilot, flying B–17 bombing missions over France and Czechoslovakia. He later became a founding member of the 390th Bomb Group Memorial Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

Harold was a successful businessman, owning and operating his own business, Payne's Famous Furniture Village, in Caddo Mills for 35 years. He was active in his community, serving on the board of the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum, the hospital board, the school board, Hunt County Fair Board, and bank board. He also served on the City Council for many years. He was a founding member of the Faith Bible Church, where he served on the board of elders.

Harold is a true American hero whose outstanding service to his country and community will be long remembered. I am proud to have known him as a personal friend, and he will be missed by his family and many friends. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great American, Harold Payne.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2642, FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against the farm bill conference report because it represented a missed opportunity to enact necessary and long-overdue reforms. Supporters of this legislation claim $23 billion in savings, but by setting commodity target prices at today's high prices, independent experts expect that as prices drop, this legislation would cost us more in the long run.

The bill does have some bright spots. The removal of the King amendment and the inclusion of language cracking down on animal fighting are victories for animal welfare. The SNAP cuts are not as draconian as the version that passed the House last year. I am thrilled that the amendment I worked on with Representatives POLIS and MASSIE easing restrictions on the cultivations of industrial hemp was included, which shows we are ready to look at hemp as an agricultural commodity, and not a drug. There are welcome investments in renewable energy and organics in this bill as well.

On the whole, however, the bill falls short of enacting necessary reforms, and maintains the pattern of cutting SNAP benefits for our most vulnerable while spending taxpayer dollars on wasteful agriculture subsidies. In Oregon alone, 78,000 households will face cuts to their nutrition assistance as a result of this bill, while simultaneously the bill adds to the already-bloated crop insurance program and creates even more subsidies that benefit large agribusinesses and encourage farmers to farm the system, not the land. It continues loopholes that allow one farm to claim multiple subsidy payments despite the fact that both the House and Senate passed farm bills eliminating these loopholes.

I am also disappointed that this legislation cuts overall funding for conservation programs, and fails to enact many important reforms that I have put forward in my legislation—the Balancing Food, Farm and the Environment Act of 2013—that would strengthen the conservation title. I was pleased to see the inclusion of language establishing conservation compliance, as well as enactment of a

Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which will help encourage farmers to work together to protect water quality, water supplies or wildlife habitat at watershed or regional scales. Overall, however, conservation language could and should have gone much further to provide adequate funding while optimizing results and making it easier for farmers to apply their conservation knowledge to their land.

On balance this bill represents the minimum effort that enabled its passage. It is fiscally irresponsible and continues the alarming trend of subsidizing large agribusiness while cutting benefits for our most vulnerable Americans. We can and should do better, and I will continue working to reform our federal agricultural policies to that end.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION AND ABORTION INSURANCE FULL DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 7, a Republican bill intended only to exacerbate divisions between Americans and to undermine the rights of American women to access health care.

H.R. 7 would effectively deny women access to health insurance coverage that includes abortion, by taking away important tax benefits such as certain tax deductions and premium tax credits used to help pay for the cost of health insurance coverage. This bill is so misguided and invasive that it does not even allow for coverage when a woman's health is in danger.

Despite the Republicans' ''pro-business'' stance, this bill would also limit small businesses' ability to claim existing health care deductions or claim the Small Business Health Tax Credit for those businesses that offer their employees comprehensive health insurance that includes abortion.

Limiting access to these tax deductions and tax credits not only adversely impacts the employees and the small businesses, but also harms the American economy. After all, both Democrats and Republicans agree that small businesses are the engines of our economy.

Quite simply, H.R. 7 intrudes upon the relationship between a woman and her doctor by limiting a woman's ability to access health insurance coverage that includes coverage of abortion and in doing threatens a woman's health. The notion that women are incapable of rational decision regarding their own bodies and their own health does not have any place in the Twenty-First Century.

So far this year, we have not even had an opportunity to vote on the extension of unemployment benefits, nor have we had the opportunity to vote on any meaningful jobs bill. Instead, I am ashamed to say that we waste our time on bills such as H.R. 7 that politicizes women's access to health care and takes our focus off what should be our primary goal—creating jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

I ask my colleagues to oppose this bill.

A RECORD OF SERVICE

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Toni Atkins on her unanimous selection to be the next Speaker of the California State Assembly. Toni's career of public service in California is one marked by achievement, perseverance, and an ability to listen to all points of view.

From Toni's earliest days in San Diego, it was apparent that she was devoted to the public good. She worked as the Director of Client Services for the Womancare Health Center. This position reflected Toni's constant advocacy for women's health, including women's reproductive choices. These are issues that she has advanced in both her work as an elected official, and privately through her ''Toni Atkins Lesbian Health Fund.''

I first started working with Toni in 2000 when we were elected to San Diego's City Council. I remember Toni as being a consensus builder, a member who was willing to bring all interested parties to the table. Toni looks past partisan labels to come up with common sense solutions to some of the most challenging issues facing San Diego.

Toni had many great accomplishments while serving in the office; she helped pass a living wage ordinance that boosted pay for thousands of hard working San Diegans and also passed a bill that expanded the affordable housing in the city. It was Toni's hard work and fair-mindedness as a legislator which propelled her to the position of mayor pro-tem of San Diego, in which she became the first openly lesbian mayor of the city. Serving in this position Toni served as an inspiration to LGBT people, their families and allies everywhere.

Toni's commitment was again called to serve her state; she was elected in 2010 to the California State Assembly, where she fights for important issues such as ending homelessness, and veterans issues. Once again Toni's vision and judgment has been recognized by her colleagues and in a unanimous selection, Toni was chosen to lead the California State Assembly as its Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my friend Toni Atkins for her record of achievement, and her continued commitment to serving the citizens of California. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Toni as she goes on to lead California's State Assembly.

LOUISE DREUTH'S RETIREMENT FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Louise Dreuth. Louise is retiring from the federal government this month after more than 26 years of public service in the national security arena. She currently works in the Department of Defense as a senior congressional analyst in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence's Congressional Activities office.

Although Louise originally hails from New York, she graduated from high school and college in Montgomery County, Maryland, and has been a longtime resident of Bethesda. Since she entered the work force, Louise has had a varied and distinguished career, having worked in both the legislative branch and executive branch at different times. Notably, Louise began her government service as a Professional Staff Member on The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence when the committee was first established in 1977. No doubt those were interesting and challenging times, as the new committee worked to establish ongoing oversight of the Intelligence Community. As a Professional Staff Member on the HPSCI, Louise played a significant role helping the committee develop its authorization bills, performing research, and contributing to the critical mission of thorough oversight.

Louise left the Committee in 1986 to work in the private sector for several years, but returned to the federal government in 1992 and joined the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), where she worked for 13 years in a number of increasingly challenging legislative and public affairs positions. Her work at MDA prepared her well to become the Chief of Communications for the Counterintelligence Field Activity (CIFA) when it was established in 2005. Shortly after CIFA was merged under the Defense Intelligence Agency in 2008, Louise joined the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (OUSDI), where she is now. She has handled a busy, high-profile portfolio of counterintelligence and security legislative issues in OUSDI's Congressional Activities office for the past five years.

Most recently, Louise has led numerous congressional engagements related to the latest unauthorized disclosures of classified material. As so often was true during her career, Louise's role has been to advise intelligence professionals in the Department of Defense on how to communicate the impact of these leaks and what DoD and defense intelligence entities are doing to prevent future disclosures. Louise has also contributed to Congress's better understanding and oversight of these critical issues.

At the conclusion of her impressive career as a national security and legislative affairs professional, Louise is looking forward to spending more leisurely days with her husband Mike, their little grandson Ben, and their adult children Josh and Beth. I know Louise has been a very devoted daughter to her mother, and will now be able to see her more frequently.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Louise Dreuth for her dedicated public service. Over the course of more than 26 years in legislative and public affairs positions within the federal government, she has advised many national security and intelligence professionals on how to communicate important, complex issues to Congress and the American public. She has made direct and significant contributions toward positive relations between the legislative and executive branches of our government. Louise has consistently brought great credit upon herself and every office in which she has worked. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best in her retirement.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2642, FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 2642, a bill that will starve millions of families and children and further add to the economic instability of American families.

Cutting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, referred to as ''SNAP,'' by eight billion dollars ($8 billion) over the next ten years, H.R. 2642 will undermine access to healthy food for the many children, disabled people, and senior citizens who account for eighty-three percent of the beneficiaries of the program.

It is estimated that eight hundred and fifty thousand (850,000) households, of which three hundred thousand (300,000) are New Yorkers, will lose on average ninety ($90) dollars per month in SNAP benefits.

While I am glad that the far larger cuts were rejected by the Conference Committee, the loss of ninety ($90) dollars per month is deeply harmful to these households, which are already teetering on the brink of economic catastrophe.

What are we thinking? We are literally taking the food out of the mouths of babes, while continuing to provide generous subsidies to large agro-businesses.

It is for these reasons that I will vote no on this bill and I ask my colleagues to oppose this bill with me.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. FRANKLIN D. CHEATHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CAMPBELLSVILLE UNIVERSITY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Franklin D. Cheatham. After 40½ years of educating Campbellsville University math and computer science students, Dr. Cheatham will retire on December 31, 2014.

Dr. Cheatham, senior vice president for academic affairs, attended Campbellsville College (before it became Campbellsville University) and graduated in 1965. He joined the university as a faculty member in 1973.

Named a Distinguished Alumnus in 2002, Dr. Cheatham received several awards for his dedication to academic excellence and the students at Campbellsville University. Among the awards are: Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award (1989) and the Campbellsville/Taylor County Chamber of Commerce ''Educator of the Year Award'' (1992 & 2000).

IN addition to teaching, Dr. Cheatham has also served as a faculty advisor for Sigma Zeta and the science and math honor societies. He also served as president of and on the board of directors of the Consortium for Computing in Small Colleges.

Dr. Cheatham has gone above and beyond his duties as professor and Campbellsville University and his many students have seen the benefits of those actions. Today I thank Dr. Cheatham for his four decades in education and wish him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to inform you that I was detained on December 5, 2013 and was unable to be on the House floor for votes related to H.R. 3309, the Innovation Act. Had I been there, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote 623: Goodlatte Amendment for H.R. 3309: ''yes''; rollcall vote 624: Watt Amendment for H.R. 3309: ''no''; rollcall vote 625: Massie Amendment for H.R. 3309: ''no''; rollcall vote 626: Jackson Lee Amendment for H.R. 3309: ''no''; rollcall vote 627: Rohrabacher Amendment for H.R. 3309: ''no''; rollcall vote 628: Conyers Amendment for H.R. 3309: ''no''; rollcall vote 629: On Final Passage of H.R. 3309: ''yes.''

IN HONOR OF PLANTRONICS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Plantronics, a pioneer in audio communications and wearable technology based in my district in Santa Cruz, California. Plantronics just received the prestigious Secretary of State's 2013 Award for Corporate Excellence and with good reason. Over the past half century, Plantronics has excelled in both products and people. This innovative company was founded in a garage by Courtney Graham and Keith Larkin, two airline pilots looking to make a smaller, lighter headset for use in airplane cockpits. Their headsets were adopted by the Federal Aviation Administration, employed in the first Apollo mission, and used to transmit Neil Armstrong's legendary first words from the moon: ''That's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind.'' Today, Plantronics products are used by 911 emergency workers, airline pilots, astronauts, and all Fortune 100 companies.

While Plantronics emphasizes high-quality products, it is their equal emphasis on people and the environment that has further distinguished this company. The Plantronics manufacturing facility has advanced best practices in environmental stewardship, corporate citizenship, and employment. The company offers their workforce educational support programs, enabling employees to attain over 2,300 degrees; professional development programs have supported more than 1,000 employees' promotion into new roles; and they have a new 800,000 square foot facility that generates 70% of its own power. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

As CEO Kenneth Kannappan said, ''Our focus on our people, giving back to our communities and being responsible stewards of the environment are central to our identity, our culture and our position as a leader in audio communications.'' I congratulate Ken and Plantronics for receiving the Award for Corporate Excellence, a well-deserved recognition of their impressive work.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM A. GARY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. William A. Gary, who passed away on January 12. Mr. Gary was a longtime resident of Prescott, Arizona. He was also a husband, a father, a rancher, and a philanthropist.

Mr. Gary was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. He left his studies at Texas A&M University to serve our country as a Marine Corps captain in World War II and returned to Texas A&M after the war to finish his animal husbandry degree. He met his wife, Marion, when he was stationed at Camp Pendleton, where she served as a nurse in the Navy.

Mr. Gary was born into a long line of ranchers going back to 17th century Virginia. Ranching was in his blood. In 1958, he and his wife, as well as their two children, moved to Arizona, where they bought a ranch and subsequently began other businesses. Like most entrepreneurs, Mr. Gary and his family did not find immediate riches, but through their hard work they eventually found success.

After retiring from ranching, Mr. Gary began his philanthropic ventures in earnest. He had honed his fundraising skills when he helped found the Marine Military Academy in 1965. After retirement, he put those skills to use again, raising millions of dollars for important Prescott institutions. Not only did he raise millions for the Phippen Museum in Prescott, allowing the museum to double its size and improve its grounds, he also donated several pieces to the museum. The museum's Bill and Marion Gary Western Heritage Gallery is named in recognition of his and his wife's contributions. Mr. Gary also raised funds for the Yavapai College Foundation, helping to build the college's performance hall and other facilities.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and honored to rise today and join in the Centennial Celebration of one of the most committed, hard-working and influential groups in San Diego County, the San Diego County Farm Bureau. 2014 marks 100 years of leadership for this non-profit membership organization, founded with the objective to promote and protect local agriculture.

Since 1914, the San Diego County Farm Bureau has served as the leading advocate

for the farming community and works with elected officials, government agencies, educators, the media and the public to create an environment that allows for the continued growth and sustainability of local agriculture. The first formal meeting of the San Diego County Farm Bureau was held on February 20, 1914, at the Speckles Theater in San Diego where 383 family farmers paid $1 in dues to be eligible to vote on creating the organization. It was here that the San Diego County Farm Bureau became the third of 53 county farm bureaus formed in California. Judge W.R. Andrews of Spring Valley was elected as its first president and the Bureau's longevity can be directly attributed to a proud lineage of 51 presidents and legion of volunteers who have given unselfishly of their time in support of our local farming community.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that America's agriculture industry is steeped in tradition and was an integral industry upon which the economy and self-sufficiency of our young nation was built. America's ''agrarian republic'' represented the hope of new beginnings and many of our founding fathers believed the character of leadership and necessary virtue would be found in those who worked the soil, in those who invested their time and effort into the production of their crops both for their own existence and that of their community. James Madison extolled the value of connecting with one's land and it was Thomas Jefferson who said, ''Agriculture. . . is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness.''

While there was an initial debate on the long-term viability of agriculture's role in developing America's manufacturing base, our nation's productivity in this industry proved to be an immediate return on investment and indicative of the ability of the American people to thrive in any circumstance. As our nation grew, so did the importance of agriculture, particularly in California. Today, California leads all other states in farm income. With 73 percent of the state's agricultural revenues derived from over 200 different crops and 27 percent of revenues generated by livestock commodities, California is our nation's leader in agriculture production. San Diego County has one of the country's largest farm economies and has more small and organic farms than any other county in California. San Diego County leads the nation in production of its two major crops, ornamentals and avocados, and is successfully invested in the areas of nurseries, cut flowers, fruits, vegetables, nuts, field crops, vineyards, livestock, and poultry.

This production and success is not by chance, it is a direct result of the hard work of San Diego County's agriculture community and the tireless advocacy of the San Diego County Farm Bureau on their behalf. While our nation and my home state of California continue to face many economic challenges, particularly in the agriculture industry, we move forward with full confidence knowing that groups like the San Diego County Farm Bureau are leading by example and utilizing a wealth of experience that will continue to allow us to take advantage of our full potential. Congratulations again to the San Diego County Farm Bureau on 100 years of service and I look forward to their continued success well into the future.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

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 $17,293,019,654,983.61. We've added $6,666,142,606,070.53 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of January 27, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Rollcall No. 24: H.R. 2166—''yea.''

Rollcall No. 25: H.R. 3008—''yea.''

Rollcall No. 26: Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule—''nay.''

Rollcall No. 27: H. Res. 465—''nay.''

Rollcall No. 28: Approving the Journal—''yea.''

Rollcall No. 29: Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 7—''yea.''

Rollcall No. 30: Final passage of H.R. 7—''nay.''

Rollcall No. 31: Final passage of H.R. 2642, Farm Bill Conference Report—''yea.''

TRIBUTE TO SPORTING KANSAS CITY

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the major league soccer team from my home, the Kansas 3rd Congressional District—Sporting Kansas City. In early December, 2013, Sporting KC squared off against Real Salt Lake in the MLS Cup final match at Sporting Park in Kansas City, Kansas. The victory gave Sporting KC their first Major League Soccer title in thirteen years, and was only decided after 10 rounds of penalty kicks. When all was final, Sporting KC was victorious 7–6 in a shoot-out win, bringing the Philip Anschutz Trophy to Kansas City.

Sporting KC head coach Peter Vermes and the entire roster of players, including MVP defender Aurelien Collin, brought so much excitement to our community throughout the 2013 season. To have the Championship match played out in Sporting Park, in front of more than 21,000 loyal fans, only maximized the energy and atmosphere that night in December and it was simply amazing.

We greatly appreciate the investment and leadership of Robb Heineman, Cliff Illig, Neal Patterson, Pat Curran and Greg Maday. Bringing Sporting KC to Kansas has been great for the team and the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, the Sporting Kansas City soccer team is the first major league sports team to win a league championship at home in Kansas City since 1985. The pride and excitement the entire Kansas City community has with the club is great, and we all congratulate Sporting KC, the players and coaches, the organization staff, and everyone with a role at the park on their 2013 Major League Soccer Cup Championship. You make us proud.

TRIBUTE TO THE BENEDICT COLLEGE HARAMBEE FESTIVAL

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Benedict College Harambee Festival, in Columbia, South Carolina, in my Congressional District. One of the largest college-sponsored festivals in the nation, the Benedict College Harambee Festival will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary on February 22nd. As we observe Black History Month, I believe it is important to highlight this special event for its expression of multiculturalism, inclusion and advocacy of African American Southern history and culture.

In 1988 Benedict College led by Dr. George A. Devlin, Chair of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, revived its efforts to create a series of events to celebrate and study Black History Month. Originally called the African American Bazaar, the free event was designed to unite the community. The Harambee Festival weathered much adversity in its first few years. Initial attempts in 1989 were ''snowed out.'' Extreme cold and rain in 1991, and again in 1992 greatly affected Festival attendance records.

Organizers have likened lessons of African American history to the Harambee Festival because it teaches that after struggle, success is possible. The Festival has prospered and is today one of the biggest college-sponsored festivals in the United States of America with an average attendance of over 6,000 people. A success story of Benedict College, the Harambee Festival now includes a bake contest, fashion show and a number of live performances alongside historical presentations, as well as community-oriented service activities.

Since 2010, the Harambee Festival Community Choir has performed annually at the Festival, preserving the rich musical tradition of gospel music. The Choir is composed of members of the Benedict College Gospel Choir as well as great singers from choirs in the Midlands, the Pee Dee, and other regions of South Carolina. A number of performers have showcased their talents over the Harambee Festival's twenty-five year history, including national recording star Ms. Angie Stone, Mr. Dwayne Johnson, Jr. from Soul-food Jazz and (former) world champions Double Dutch Forces.

Since its inception, the Harambee Festival has been inclusive in its efforts to bring the community together. A testament of its success, the Harambee Festival sees people and

organizations coming back again and again, year after year. The hard work and dedication of Benedict College and all participating organizations, exhibitors and vendors continues to sustain a long-lasting legacy of commemoration and celebration of Black History Month through the Harambee Festival.

An integral annual event, the Harambee Festival unifies the community and provides an opportunity not only to celebrate but also contribute to a wealth of African American history in our Nation. I sincerely thank the Benedict College Harambee Festival for its commitment to remembering the past while looking to South Carolina's future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in paying tribute to all who have contributed to the success of the Benedict College Harambee Festival over the past twenty-five years. It has been a great asset to South Carolina and the broader African American community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 6

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 1784, to improve timber management on Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road grant land, and S. 1966, to provide for the restoration of the economic and ecological health of National Forest System land and rural communities.

SD–366

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Wanda Felton, of New York, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Katherine M. O'Regan, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Arun Madhavan Kumar, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine financial stability and data security.

SD–538

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine supporting children and families through investments in high-quality early education.

SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to resume consideration of S. 1486, to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, S. 149, to provide effective criminal prosecutions for certain identity thefts, and the nominations of Indira Talwani, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, James D. Peterson, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin, Nancy J. Rosenstengel, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, and Debo P. Adegbile, of New York, and John P. Carlin, of New York, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD–226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider H.R. 1206, to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, S. 741, to extend the authorization of appropriations to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2017, S. 212, to approve the transfer of Yellow Creek Port properties in Iuka, Mississippi, S. 864, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, H.R. 724, to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles, S. 51, to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, S. 970, to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under the Act, S. 898, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation, S. 969, to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act, S. 1077, to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to provide for the reauthorization of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, S. 1865, to amend the prices set for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users, S. 1451, to provide for environmental restoration activities and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or shipment of quagga mussels, S. 1080, to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship, and the nominations of Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Chief Financial Officer, Thomas A. Burke, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator, and Kenneth J. Kopocis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator, all of the Environmental Protection Agency, Roy K. J. Williams, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, Richard J. Engler, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, and proposed resolutions relating to the General Services Administration.

SD–406

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Luis G. Moreno, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Jamaica, John L. Estrada, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, all of the Department of State.

SD–419

Select Committee on Intelligence

Committee on Armed Services

To hold a closed joint hearing to examine counterterrorism policy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SVC–217

FEBRUARY 11

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD–226

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.

SD–G50

FEBRUARY 12

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight to examine the report of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board on Reforms to the Section 215 telephone records program and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

SD–226

Special Committee on Aging

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold a joint hearing to examine the challenges and advantages of senior entrepreneurship.

SD–562